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preservation of the cathedral which was sent to King George.

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No one need work in the dark, for God's presence will light up any life with joy.

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Out of his darkness into God's own light."

DORA FARNCOMB.

## The Children of the Forest

A TRUE STORY OF A TEACHER'S EXPERIENCE.

By M. Blanche Boyd.

Chapter 15.

REMINISCENCES.

Our talks were not always religious, for Mr. McDonald and I would talk politics, and about the possibilities of the country, etc., and it was so interesting.

Election time had come around, and he was asked to choose between voting for a well-to-do drunken doctor and a poor, honest farmer. I tried to urge him to vote for the latter, especially as he was a Conservative. He laughingly asked me if I would have him turn traitor and vote against the Liberals he had always sided with. "Well," I replied. "If you won't vote Conservative, the next best thing you can do is not to vote at all, but vote according to the dictates of your conscience." "Conscience!" he answered, "men vote for the man who promises them the most, and can be bribed by a glass of whiskey here; they don't care who gets in." He, however, did not vote at all, although he teased me for sometime about it, having had his tea early and stayed at the barn for a long time to make me think he had gone to vote.

The Boer question was a sore subject with him. "Just look," he said, "in the paper it speaks of England offering the Boers a home in Canada; 160 acres free, provisions for the first year, farm implements to use, and several years livelihood without taxes, and what do they give their own flesh and blood? Why they give us 200 acres of land free, but claim all the pine off the land—the only wood that is worth anything on the place. They give us no provisions nor implements, and it takes us years to cultivate the land, for we have to fell the trees, cut them up and burn them, and it is many years before we can get rid of the stumps. If we want to earn any money we must go to the shanties or mines in the winter, then our farm has to be left. If we stay at home to farm no money comes in, as we get no money for our grain, butter, eggs or meat, but must trade everything at the village store. There I have got to pay \$12.50 a year tax for having 20 acres cleared. Before we can get a 'deed' we have to clear so many acres of land in a given time. We have to cut down the pine in our woods for the Government and leave our own work, and we get so poor that it is impossible for us to leave the country.

"The country is not organized; men take law into their own hands and settle disputes as they wish,—generally by fighting it out. If the government finds out that we shoot any animal to get food for our families, out of season, we are fined, while strangers are allowed to come during hunting season and kill all our animals off while we settlers are working. They try to make us raise \$125 to pay a teacher and to raise half the salary required for a minister, but we are too poor to do it, as some now are seized and sold to pay the teacher's salary. Some of the neighbors don't grow food enough to feed their horses and cattle, and have to turn the poor beasts out in the forest in the dead of winter to hunt for a living, where they sometimes die."

If there were any people enterprising enough to start a mine, he said that there were coal and silver mines in the surrounding country, and, having been a miner, he ought to know.

In regard to my questions about the fertility of the land, he said that the land consisted of sand and sandy loam

soil, in which wheat and potato growth is good, but that it really was a great barley-producing country. The wheat crop averaged about 25 or 30 bushels to the acre. Small vegetables could be grown, but the land was not cleared sufficiently for great crops, and the climate was too changeable. The temperature ranged from 45 below zero to 120 above. The country was subject to frequent rainfalls, heavy snow-storms and severe frosts, which made it difficult to grow fruit or vegetables, as the summer was so short. Being woody, the land was naturally fertile and produced a quantity of raspberries, blueberries, cranberries (low bush and high bush), strawberries, gooseberries to a small extent, skunk currants and winter-green berries, but the bears lived chiefly on these.

As it is a naturally cold climate only two kinds of nuts are found and they never amount to much, viz., the hazel and beech nuts. (For the benefit of those who do not know, I shall tell you that hazel nuts grow on bushes.) The trees chiefly consist of evergreens, such as pine, tamarack, spruce, cedar, balsam, but others such as the soft maple, black oak, elm, beech, birch, poplar, cherry and hawthorn are also to be found, and these different kinds are used for various purposes, such as pine for the Government and fuel (pine that the Government will not accept for lumber), balsam brush for litters and shanty "bunks" for bedding, cedar blocks for shingles, and birch for making "jumpers."

The flowers are much the same as those found in "civilization," "at the front" or "down south" as we called Southern Ontario,—lady's slippers, adders' tongues, red and white lilies, white, yellow and blue violets, mayflowers as well as many beautiful vines and ferns.

The National Park was only four miles east of us, and it was here that all the wild animals were protected and a heavy fine imposed upon trespassers. In the forest are to be found not only the fierce and wary wolf, but bears, lynx, wild cats and wolverines (the last three mentioned being somewhat similar), moose, deer, otters, beavers, (Mr. Smith gave me a straight stick which he found at the beaver dam one night as a keep-sake. This was all peeled by the beavers and cut by them; the mark made by their teeth in stripping the bark off forms small lines or circles), martens, weasels, minks, grey, black and red foxes, ground-hogs, musk-rats, skunks, rabbits, chipmunks, porcupines (the poor dogs used to come home with their mouths all torn and bleeding, being full of quills, which it is very difficult to extract) and flying squirrels. After going a mile and a half from where we lived, one might travel over a hundred miles East, and never come to a clearing.

A Frenchman had shot a fawn but not killed it, so he put a bell around its neck and it wandered all over the country and came up to our house one morning where we managed to get it near enough to pet, but as soon as we moved it scampered off. Having heard about the kinds of animals in the country, I naturally wished to know something about the way in which the trappers and hunters succeeded in capturing these animals. The bear trap is similar to our rat traps, I mean those with a round plate of iron in the centre upon which bait is placed, and two half circles of iron edged with sharp cruel teeth, which snap together when the plate is moved. A long strong chain is attached to a neighboring tree. This is a very cruel method, as the poor brute is just caught by one paw, and sometimes is in agony for hours until the hunter puts an end to its sufferings. Smaller traps of this description are used to catch mink and other small animals, but, as is often the case, the poor cats and dogs get into these traps instead, and many are lamed and have to be killed. Both of our big cats had shared this fate, which so enraged the boys that they stole the trap that was set at the dam, and kept it for months.

In order to capture the deer they get a large pail of very salty water, and pour it upon a bare spot on the ground in the clearing. The deer will scent this and come to lick up the salt. This one will bring another, and it is no un-