

## Young People's Department.



THE CAMELS OF THE DESERT.

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**T**HE camel has been called the ship of the desert. It is a very quiet, patient creature. In the East, camels are more useful than horses, because they can stand the hot, dry weather.

They are made for the desert, because they can live for a long time without either food or water. They can travel for fifteen hours without being very tired, going at the rate of five miles an hour. Five miles an hour seems very slow, but when it is kept up steadily for fifteen hours good time is made, after all, for that is seventy-five miles a day, and a horse would not like to do that very long. In Arabia, sometimes, there is a terrible storm of hot wind, mixed with sand. It is called simoon. The only thing to do is to cover your face with cloth and lie with your face to the ground till it passes by. Horses perish in

these storms in great numbers, because they do not know what to do; but camels dig their noses into the sand while the wind is blowing past, and so escape. There is poison in this wind and, therefore, if you breathe it you are apt to die. Camels carry water in a pouch inside and sometimes men, when dying of thirst, kill the poor creatures to get this water. We are told of a general who wanted to march his army across the desert where there was no water. He was told that the only thing he could do was to take a great many camels with him and kill them by degrees when the men wanted water. He did this, and crossed the desert just as the camels were killed and the men began to get faint for water.

The camel always makes us think of Bible lands, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, also of Joseph and his brethren and many others. They are building railroads now in the East, and the camel will not be used so much in long