

## YOUNG CANADA.

## EXILES IN SIBERIA.

Many years ago, in the early youth of the century now growing old, a book was published which, from its pathos and its transcription of filial virtues, took deep hold of the popular heart, and will never wholly let go. This is "Elizabeth; or the Exiles of Siberia." Originally appearing in French, it was shortly translated into various languages, proving its nature to be that in which all the world is kin. The story is on a basis of well-authenticated facts, which were transmitted to the author, Madame Cottin, in the letters of a friend who resided at St. Petersburg at the time that "Elizabeth" made her remarkable journey thither. The heroine's real name was Praskovy Gregorova Lupulova—i. e., Pauline the daughter of Lupulova.

This man had been in the service of the Empress Catherine, and was exiled on a life-sentence upon an accusation of stealing plate from the royal household; though if the convict himself knew with what offence he was charged, it is certain that his child, even when she suffered so much for his liberation, was entirely ignorant of it.

When Praskovy, or Pauline, was sixteen years of age, Alexander I. came to the throne. No sooner did the tidings reach their remote and dreary Siberian home, than a purpose was roused in the heart of the girl to make her way to the capital and plead with the new sovereign for her father's pardon. At first her parents refused to listen to so apparently impracticable a scheme, but her unceasing supplications finally prevailed. They gave her the ten copecks they possessed, a few more were contributed by charitable neighbours, where all were poor together; and with this sum of only a rouble—hardly more than half a dollar—and her parent's blessing, she set out to travel on foot four thousand versts—a distance greater than the width of the American continent.

The girl was very thinly clad, and suffered much from cold, as well as hunger. Twenty-five or thirty miles was her daily walk, but sometimes her feet were so swollen with fatigue as to compel a rest of two or three days. Starting at sunrise as a rule, she stopped when night overtook her at any shelter Providence might offer; and God, she said, upheld her courage by giving her many pitying friends along the desolate way. Three-quarters of a year of this arduous journeying brought Pauline to the neighbourhood of Moscow, where her hardships ended in her being received into a convent and kindly cared for. From there to St. Petersburg her journey was by public conveyance.

The nuns, deeply interested in the poor girl, recommended her to the Princess Torrubetskoy, famed for benevolence, who immediately wrote to the emperor, making known the case, and had the letter, together with a petition for Lupulova's pardon, presented by an influential gentleman. The result was that the young woman received a summons to appear before his majesty, which she did trembling with weakness and emotion. Her anxiety was soon over, for he told her in the kindest manner that whatever the crime of her parent might be, he pardoned it for the sake of such a daughter. He also gave her two thousand roubles and presented her to the empress, who gave her three hundred roubles, and pensioned her with two hundred roubles a year for life. Full permission was granted for herself and family to live where they pleased.

The happy girl sent for her parents, and in the meantime she was invited from one nobleman's house to another, where her constant

entertainment was fit for a princess. Pauline was found to be very amiable, affectionate, pious, and much more intelligent than would be supposed possible for a native of the deserts of Siberia. By order of the dowager empress she was sketched in the dress in which she first appeared at the palace, with which the nuns of the convent had provided her,—a gown of gray calico, with "mutton-leg" sleeves, a large black crape handkerchief on her neck, a chaplet of beads and cross, and a white muslin kerchief wound carelessly about the head and knotted under the chin. The face was peculiarly gentle and pleasing, though not handsome. One of these pictures the dowager empress placed in her own cabinet. She also sent copies to each of the imperial family. It does not seem that the girl's head was at all turned by so much attention. When the book narrating her adventures under the name of Elizabeth arrived, and the heads of it were translated to her, she laughed and said, "A poor girl like me made into such a fine story!"

With a large sum raised for her by subscription Pauline went to meet her parents at Catherineburg, saying that her heart was in constant grateful prayer, God knew with what sincerity. Fears had already been felt lest the severe strain she had undergone had so injured the poor girl's constitution that she would not long survive to enjoy her good fortune, and so it proved. She lived to see her parents comfortably settled at Lower Novogorod, and passed away three years after quitting Siberia on her errand of love and duty.

## THE LAZY PUSSY.

There lives a good-for-nothing cat,  
So lazy it appears,  
That chirping birds can safely come  
And light upon her ears.

And rats and mice can venture out  
To nibble at her toes,  
Or climb around and pull her tail,  
And boldly scratch her nose.

Fine servants brush her silken coat  
And give her cream for tea;—  
Yet she's a good-for-nothing cat,  
As all the world may see.

## TEACHING ANIMALS TO TALK.

A pretty picture, exhibited some time ago, represented a little child looking up inquiringly to the intelligent face of a collie dog, and was entitled "Can You Talk?" Sir John Lubbock has lately been asking the question of a little black poodle, and has been endeavouring to teach it to make its wants known by the use of cards with written characters upon them. Thus, one card bears the word "Food," another "Out," and the dog has been taught to bring either the one or the other to his master, and to distinguish between the meanings of the two. It seems doubtful whether the dog in this case uses the faculty of sight or smell; and it would be a source of some interest and amusement to those possessing an obedient dog, and with time at their disposal, to carry out the same kind of experiments, using new cards every time.

It is constantly brought home to any observing owner of a dog that the animal understands a great deal more than he is generally credited with. In one case we know of a Dandy Dinmont who became excited when certain things were mentioned in so which he was interested, that French word had to be used in place of English ones when he was present. Their intelligence is truly marvellous. The wife of the editor of this journal possesses a terrier which, while his mistress is out driving, will remain quietly in the parlour during her absence, taking no heed of other vehicles that may

come to the front door in the interval, but instantly recognizing by some intuitive perception the arrival of the carriage or cab that has restored his mistress. Be it noted that the room in which Tim is confined during these temporary partings, is at the back of the house, apart altogether from the front door. This special power of discrimination on the part of our favourite has always been a marvel to us.

Col. Stuart Wortley, commenting upon Sir John Lubbock's experiments, tells an interesting story concerning a cat which he found during the Crimean War. The poor creature was pinned to the ground by a bayonet which had fallen and pierced its foot. The colonel released it; and the animal attached itself to him, and remained with him to the end of the war. The first two mornings of their acquaintance the cat was taken to the doctor's tent to have his wounds dressed. The third morning, the colonel was on duty; but the cat found his way to the doctor's all the same, scratching at the tent for admission, and holding up his paw for examination.—*Chambers' Journal*.

## HOW POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

In printing, steel plates are used, on which two hundred stamps are engraved. Two men are kept hard at work covering them with coloured inks and passing them to a man and a girl who are equally busy printing them with large rolling hand-presses. Three of these little squads are employed all the time. After the small sheets of paper upon which the two hundred stamps are engraved have dried enough, they are sent into another room and gummed. The gum used for this purpose is a peculiar composition, made of the powder of dried potatoes and other vegetables, mixed with water. After having been again dried, this time on the little racks which are fanned by steam power, for about an hour, they are put in between sheets of paste-board and pressed in hydraulic presses capable of applying a weight of two thousand tons. The next thing is to cut the sheet in half: each sheet, of course, when cut, contains a hundred stamps. This is done by a girl, with a large pair of shears, cutting by hand being preferred to that of machinery, which method would destroy too many stamps. They are then passed to two other squads, who perforate the paper between the stamps. Next, they are pressed once more, and then packed and labeled and stowed away for despatching to fulfill orders. If a single stamp is torn or in any way mutilated, the whole sheet of one hundred stamps is burned. Five hundred thousand are burned every week from this cause. For the past twenty years, not a single sheet has been lost, such care has been taken in counting them. During the process of manufacturing, the sheets are counted eleven times.

## FAIR PLAY.

Fair play in play is the foundation for fair play in life. To play unfairly is to steal. By the rules of the game, you have certain rights, and your opponent has certain rights. These rights, like all rights, are of the nature of property. If you take the slightest advantage to which you are not entitled, you are to that extent—well, thief is a hard word to use. But I will let you or any other conscientious boy say what is one who takes that which does not belong to him, and thus infringes on the rights of another.

The boy who plays fairly is sure to make an honourable man. I should not like to say that the boy who plays unfairly will grow to be a rogue. But I will say that the boy who takes unfair advantages in a game shows a weak moral nature, and cannot be depended on in a pinch.