

FAR AWAY REFORMERS.

New Zealand is so distant from the rest of the world that the average person knows less about it than about some other smaller and less interesting countries. Australia is its nearest neighbor, and Australia is 1200 miles to the westward. Recently attention has been called to this group of islands by an election likely to be famous as the first of importance in which women had equal powers with men. In New Zealand every person more than twenty-one years old has a right to vote for any public officer. Women vote in some Western States, but not for all offices, and in no country except New Zealand has anything like a national election been held in which women were on an equal footing with men. As was expected, they were less influenced by parties than by the character of men running for office, and a majority of them voted against the liquor interests.

The country which has just taken this decisive step in politics is still a colony of Great Britain, and its capital, Wellington, is almost directly opposite to London on the globe. New Zealand, therefore, is the most remote colony under the government of the Queen, and it is also likely to be one of the most important. Its population is not yet a million, but is very near that figure, and the three principal islands are together about twice as large as New York State, and nearly as large as Great Britain and Ireland. The days average a little warmer than in New York and London, but the weather is neither so warm in summer nor so cold in winter as in England and the United States. There is heavy rainfall and an almost constant west wind. In the northern island especially the climate is so fine that it has attracted many settlers from the British Isles, while the rich soil and the valuable mines have brought many more immigrants.

New Zealand would seem to most persons born in the north temperate zone a strange land. At first sight it is not so very different in appearance from hilly countries with which our readers are familiar. A mountainous ridge runs the whole length of the islands, and the highest peak, in the southernmost island, which is nearly all mountains, rises into the air 12,350 feet. One point of difference that would soon suggest itself is the topsy-turvy arrangement of seasons, according to Northern ideas. Christmas is nearly at midsummer, and the days are longest about that time. Winter comes when we are having our summer, and spring is like our fall, and fall is like our spring. When Captain Cook landed on the islands in 1769 the only animals on it except men were two kinds of bats, one of rats, and a few lizards. There are no snakes, and none of the furry creatures which give life to the woods and fields of America. Even the fish in the clear streams and large fine lakes are small and of little value as food. The natives of New Zealand, the Maoris, were once cannibals, who were greatly feared by sailors, until a missionary went there, educated them, and made them Christians.

Since white people have gone to New Zealand to live they have stocked the islands with cattle, sheep, horses, and other animals, and the wool industry is one of the most important in all New Zealand. The white people had to import grains and vegetables, too, for few of the native plants can be eaten. The forests contain ferns of great size and beauty, and some of the trees are valuable for their wood, but most of the useful plants had to be imported. New Zealand, when Tasman found it in 1642, looked like a remnant of a long-past geologic age, and it is like Australia in that man has to a very great extent brought its vegetation down to date.

The Governor of New Zealand is appointed by the British crown, and so are the forty-one life members of the Upper House of the Legislature, called the Legislative Council. The Lower House is made up of representatives elected by the people every third year. There are seventy of them, including four Maoris, who are elected by the 40,000 natives who still remain. These Maoris look like the other Pacific Islanders, and speak a language similar to that of the people of Hawaii. Like most other savages who come in contact with civilization, they are dying out, and the time probably is not far distant when all that is known of the Maori will

be his portrait and a few books and magazine articles about him.—*Harper's Young People.*

'MESSENGER' BIBLE COMPETITION.

THE PRIZE WINNERS.

We are a little later than we expected to be in announcing the prize winners of the first quarter, but 'better late than never.'

THE JUNIOR PRIZE WINNERS

are both boys and both only ten years old. The first junior prize has been won by James Miles Langstaff, Ontario, and the second by Milton I. Morris, Ontario.

THE SENIOR PRIZE WINNERS

are both girls. The first prize is taken by Miss Maud Gunter, Ontario, and the second by Miss Edna Stone, Ontario.

We congratulate Ontario this time. But are the other provinces going to let their Ontario friends win all the laurels next time?

HONORABLE MENTION.

The sketches sent in by the following also deserve honorable mention:—Seniors, Nellie M., Annie Libley, W. R., Muriel, Guillaume, Nona Lee, Walnut, Ambitious, Mayflower, Maggio Johnston, Peach Blossom.

Juniors:—Rex, Daisy, St. John, Willie, May, Millie Watson, The Winter Bird, Star Bright.

Below we give the prize essays.

THE STORY OF GENESIS.

In the beginning, God created the earth. When it was ready for man God formed Adam and Eve, pure and holy, and placed them in Eden with everything necessary for happiness. They, tempted by Satan, disobeyed God, thus bringing sin and death into the world. They were driven from Eden, and though promised redemption in Christ, the disposition to sin tainted the race.

Their eldest son, Cain, murdered his righteous brother, Abel, and when the descendants of Cain and Seth became numerous, they became so exceedingly sinful that God destroyed them by a flood, from which (in the ark built by Noah at God's command) Noah's family, and seed of breathing creatures were saved.

Afterward, the descendants of Noah's sons—Shem, Ham, Japheth—also became numerous and tried to build a tower to heaven, but God confused their languages and scattered them abroad, thus founding the different nations.

Although sin abounded, God always had some faithful worshippers, Abram, eighth patriarch from Shem, being one. While in Haran, God appeared to him, called him into Canaan, promised to give him that land, and make from him a great nation. Abram believed God, so with Sarai, his wife and Lot, his nephew, went into Canaan. Having sojourned in Egypt on account of famine, they finally settled in Canaan, Lot choosing the plains of Sodom, Abram staying at Mamre.

A great war broke out among the nations. The Sodomites were defeated and Lot taken prisoner, Abram pursued and defeated the victors, brought back Lot, gave the spoils to the Sodomites and gave tithes of all to Melchizedek the priest of God. God again appeared to Abram, renewing his covenant and promising him a son. Soon, Ishmael, son of Sarai's handmaid, Hagar, was born, but God promised that though Ishmael should become a great nation, Sarai should bear a son, Isaac, who should inherit the birthright. God then instituted circumcision.

God again visited Abraham, renewed the promises and granted Abraham's plea that Sodom should be spared if therein were ten righteous. These not being found, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, but Lot escaped.

At the promised time, Isaac was born, and Ishmael sent away for having mocked him. God afterward tried Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham proving faithful, God saved Isaac's life and promised still greater blessings upon them.

Rebecca, grand-daughter of Abnanam's

brother, Nahor, became Isaac's wife, and twins, Esau and Jacob, were born to them. In Philistia where Isaac had gone from famine, God confirmed to him the covenant made with Abraham.

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob who, by deception, also received the blessing Isaac intended for Esau, and so had to flee from Esau to his mother's brother Laban at Padan-Aram whose shepherd he became. God greatly blessed him, he married Laban's daughters, Leah and Rachel, and many children were born to him. Laban not paying him just wages, he collected his possessions and departed secretly. Laban pursued them, but finally parted from them peacefully. ISOBEL.

JUNIOR PRIZE ESSAY.

God created heaven, earth, sea and all that in them is in six days. His last and greatest work was the creation of man. On the seventh day God rested and thus instituted the Sabbath.

Adam and Eve were placed in the garden of Eden with permission to eat of any tree in the garden except one. Satan, disguised as a serpent, persuaded Eve with flattering promises to eat of the forbidden fruit. She gave to Adam. When God afterwards walked in the garden they both hid. Called by God and questioned, Adam blamed Eve and Eve the serpent. God cursed Satan, drove Adam and Eve from the garden, at the same time mercifully promising them a Saviour.

Cain and Abel were Adam's sons, the one a farmer, the other a shepherd. Both went at one time to worship. Cain seeing Abel's sacrifice accepted while his own was rejected, became angry at his brother and finally killed him.

After a while, people became so wicked that God sent a flood which destroyed all but Noah and family who were saved in the ark. God afterwards made a covenant of which the rainbow was a sign that a flood would never again destroy the earth.

On the world again becoming wicked, God called Abram from Ur to go to Canaan, to become the founder of the Hebrew nation.

He wandered about with his flocks. When about ninety years old, God appeared to him, changed his name to Abraham and promised him a son in whom all nations should be blessed.

At Mamre, angels came to him to foretell the birth of his son and the destruction of Sodom. Abraham pleaded with the Lord to spare the city if fifty, forty-five, even ten righteous could be found. God granted his request. Soon after Isaac was born, and when about twenty-five years old, God called Abraham to offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed, took Isaac to Mount Moriah and was about to slay him when God interposed. A ram caught in the bushes was offered in Isaac's stead.

After Sarah's death, Isaac married Rebecca. Twenty years afterward, Esau and Jacob were born. The one became a hunter, the other a shepherd. One day Esau came in faint and hungry from hunting and found Jacob with pottage prepared. On Esau's asking for some pottage, Jacob took advantage of his weakness to gain the birthright. Again, when Isaac had become very old, Jacob, with his mother's aid, supplanted his brother and secured his father's blessing. Then, afraid of Esau's anger, Jacob left home. The second night on his way to Haran he dreamed that he saw a ladder with angels ascending and descending and God above. In the morning he was so impressed with the dream that he placed a stone for a memorial and made a vow that the Lord should be his God and that he would devote a tenth of all he had to God's service. SELIM.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Our subscribers throughout the United States where International money orders cannot be procured can remit by money order, payable at Rouses Point Post Office, N. Y. State, or secure an American Express Co. order, payable at Montreal.

THE ATTENTION OF SUBSCRIBERS is earnestly called to the instructions given in every paper that all business letters for the Messenger should be addressed "John Dougall & Son," and not to any personal address. Attention to this will save much trouble and will reduce the chances of delay or irregularity.

"MESSENGER CLUB RATES."

The following are the CLUB RATES for the NORTHERN MESSENGER:

1 copy	\$ 0 30
10 copies to one address	2 25
20 " " " "	4 40
50 " " " "	10 50
100 " " " "	20 00

Sample package supplied free on application

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
Publishers, Montreal.

PICTURESQUE CANADA.

COUPON FOR PART 3.

NORTHERN MESSENGER.

Cut out and send with 4 three cent stamps to Coupon Department 'Northern Messenger' Office, Montreal.

Name _____

P. O. _____

Prov. or State _____

**COUPON FOR
WORLD'S FAIR IN WATER COLORS.**

FROM

Peristyle to Plaisance.

Northern Messenger.

Any 'Messenger' Coupon with 18c. will secure a part. Mention part required when ordering. Cut out this coupon and mail as above.

Name _____

Town _____

Prov. or State _____

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HOW TO EARN \$100 a month. AGENTS WANTED
Hundreds of agents are now earning \$100. every month canvassing for the fast selling—the King of all subscription books
Our Journey Around the World
By REV. FRANCOIS E. CLARK, President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. 226 beautiful engravings. 237-238 thousand. Agents average 80 to 60 orders a week. One sold 240 in his own township; another, a lady, 52 in one Endeavor Society; another, 102 in 16 days. It sells at eight. Men and women agents wanted everywhere. Now is the time. No distance no hindrance. For We Pay Freight, Give Credit, Premium Copies, Free Outfit, Extra Terms, and Exclusive Territory. Write at once for Circulars to
A. D. WORTHINGTON & CO., Hartford, Conn.

USE BABY'S OWN SOAP

**BREAKFAST-SUPPER.
EPPS'S
GRATEFUL-COMFORTING.
C O C O A**
BOILING WATER OR MILK.

PLEASE MENTION THE "NORTHERN MESSENGER" WHEN REPLYING TO ANY ADVERTISEMENT THEREIN. THIS WILL ALWAYS BE ESTEEMED A FAVOR BY BOTH ADVERTISERS AND PUBLISHERS.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published every fortnight at the 'Witness' Building, at the corner of Craig and St. Peter streets, in the city of Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.

All business communications should be addressed 'John Dougall & Son,' and all letters to the Editor should be addressed Editor of the "Northern Messenger."