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PRIZE POEM.

"Only Three Little Violets."

By Pauline Sanderson, Como, Quebec.

Only three little violets!
So purple and fresh and sweet,
Dropped by a little flower-girl,
Hurrying down the street.

Only three little violets!
Picked up by a lady gay,
"Only poor little violets!"
She said, and tossed them away.

"Only three little violets!"
Exclaimed that lady gay;
But those little purple violets
Cheered a poor heart that day.

For a poor little weary maiden,
In an attic rude and bare,
With no one to tend or nurse her,
Lay slowly dying there.

Her brother Jim was a newsboy,
In a crowded city near,
And they hadn't a penny between them,
But what he earned for her.

He saw the purple violets
Lying upon the stone;
And he thought how they'd cheer and brighten
The little sister at home.

And wasn't wee Jennie delighted?
She didn't say in disdain,
"Only poor little violets!"
But kissed them again and again.

"Oh, Jim! oh, ain't they just lovely?"
And to think of them growing wild!
The thought was a dream of rapture
To the poor little London child.

Then only a few hours later
Poor Jennie was taken worse,
And the food was all exhausted,
Not a penny was in the purse.

"Oh, Jennie, what can I give you?
I've nothing to do you good,
For I haven't sold a paper,
And there's neither money nor food."

"Oh, Jim, I know something better
Than either money or food—
A scent of them beautiful violets
Would do me a deal of good."

"Just bring them from off the table,
Where they are standing there,
And put 'em where I can reach 'em,
On this old rickety chair."

"Oh, Jim, I am goin' from you,
To that Land of Love and Light,
Where flowers are always growing,
And everything warm and bright."

Her sufferings soon were ended,
And Jennie was Home at last;
And the three little purple violets
In her loving grasp were clasped.

Only three little violets,
But they had done their part
In the world's dull dreary desert,
In cheering a lonely heart.

PRIZE POEM.

The Emigrant's Dream.

By Rose Palmer, Victoria, B. C.

'Tis only a little blossom,
A flow'et of faded blue,
But the mem'ries it recalls to me
Are sweet and sorrowful too.
I see again the old farmhouse,
The place where I was born;
How dear to me is that sweet spot,
My home, my dear old home.

I see again my mother dear,
She whom I loved so well,
I hear again her tender voice,
O'er me it casts a spell.
'Tis nine long years since she went to rest,
But her spirit is with me still.

The day that I was last at home,
I wandered through the field,
With that dear mother whom I loved,
Better than all the world.

She gave me her blessing—this flow'et small,
Which I treasure more than gold.

And thus I cherish this little flower,
For its memories sweet and rare,
And oft, O, oft, has its fair sweet face
Recalled me from despair.
For I thought of my mother's grief and pain,
Which were harder than death to bear.

PRIZE POEM.

The Household Treasure.

By Rose Palmer, Victoria, B. C.

A little child with golden hair,
And eyes of darkest brown,
Upon whose rosy little face
Is seldom seen a frown.

A merry little loving girl,
As free from sin and guile
As one of God's own angels
Who down upon her smile.

The darling of her father's heart,
The apple of his eye,
She comforts him when he is sad,
And checks his weary sigh.

She's mother's little helper,
Whom she never has to scold,
Is this darling little baby girl,
Who is only five years old.

On Some Happenings.

ANOTHER OCCASIONAL PAPER CONCERNING SOME WOMEN.

It may not be without interest to our readers to note that the invitation of the National Council of Women of Canada to hold the next quinquennial meeting of the International Council in Canada has been accepted, at the late conference in Berlin. This early recognition of the claims of the womanhood of Canada upon the women of those other nationalities cannot be without its significance for us. At Berlin were representatives of the National Councils of the United States, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland, Denmark, New South Wales, Holland, New Zealand, Tasmania, Switzerland, Italy, France, Argentina, Victoria, Austria, South Australia, Norway and Hungary. The names are given in the order of the formation of their National Councils. Wherever they may meet, it can readily be understood that a deep interest must be created by the presence of delegates representing so many nationalities, all earnest women, many engaged in special lines of philanthropic and scientific work, and it seems only fitting that the choice of their next meeting-ground should fall upon a land which has become the home of so many hailing from other shores. The Berlin conference, which it is hoped and believed will bear rich fruit, binding more closely together this "Sisterhood of loving service," lasted over a fortnight, and was Germany's opportunity for a lavish hospitality, which will not readily be forgotten, and be somewhat difficult for Canada to emulate. A Canadian delegate writes:

"Some of the most beautiful of the Berlin residences were thrown open. We were entertained by individual ladies, by societies, by the local committee—in immense gatherings—by Countess Von Buelow, the wife of the Chancellor, where we saw the apartments formerly occupied by Bismarck, and finally by the State, in a grand closing entertainment, on the evening of June 18th. Last to be mentioned, though first in its importance, was our reception by the Empress of Germany. Representatives from the various countries where National Councils exist were selected, and on being presented to Her Majesty, she conversed with each in turn, either in German, French or English, speaking all with equal fluency. A charming woman, tall and graceful, with a lovely face and gracious manner, she won all our hearts."

The fact that Lady Aberdeen, the first President of the National Council of Canada, should once more be elected

President of the International Council of Women, may surely be claimed by us as a recognition of the high place amongst the nations accorded to the Dominion of Canada, as well as a well-deserved tribute to herself. The reports of this International Congress will be submitted at the annual meeting of our Canadian National Council, to be held at Winnipeg in September next. It is greatly to be desired that there should be a large attendance of representatives of the Local Councils and Womens' Institutes of the Northwest on this occasion.

ANOTHER HAPPENING.

Women are always accredited with manifesting a peculiar interest in weddings, whether they are friends of the contracting parties or not, but when the bride or bridegroom is a personal acquaintance they freely confess they do like to know all that can be told them. Well, a very large number of women in nearly every section of the Dominion can fairly claim a right to know something of the marriage of Lady Marjorie Gordon, the only daughter of our former Governor-General, and the "Our Lady Marjorie," of the Canadian National Council, to Capt. Sinclair, M.P., a descendant of the ancient Earldom of Caithness, but perhaps the Aberdeenshire settlers of the far West have the biggest claim of all. Those hailing from the estates of Haddo, Tarves, Methlick, Tarland and Schioas, will read with delight the account of the several festivities held in each, in celebration of the event, for their Aberdeenshire papers devote to it eight to ten columns of their pages, whilst the London press, pictorial and otherwise, lays great stress, not only upon the social, but political aspect of the great event, leading politicians of every shade of opinion being present to do honor to the occasion. Special mention of a cablegram of greeting from the women of Canada was given full prominence, but, unfortunately, their wedding gift would arrive too late to find its place amongst the tokens of priceless value which were the bridal offerings upon the eventful day. There is no fear but that Lady Marjorie will have a special value for it, quite irrespective of its intrinsic worth, when it reaches her in a few days' time. Both bridegroom and bride have so identified themselves with Canada, that it was only fitting for its women to select as their token of regard something typical of their country. Those who know Lady Marjorie can, in imagination, hear her thus speak of her chain, which she most certainly will wear from time to time, when her sparkling diamonds, her sapphires and pearls and rubies will be allowed to rest in their cases. "Yes," she will say, "this is gold from the Klondike; is it not a rich color, and is not the workmanship perfect?" The stones? Well, this is jasper, from Hull, Quebec; this macrocline or Amazon, from Cameron, Ontario; this, perthite, from Burgess, and this, jasper conglomerate, from Bruce Mines, Ontario. Then there is a bit of pyrite, from Templeton, Que.; porcelainite, from Two Islands, N.S.; chert, Thunder Bay; agate, from Partridge Island; solidate, from Dunganon, Ont.; porphyry, from Lake Superior; ilmonite, from Londonderry, and agate from Cape D'Or, Nova Scotia; but," she will add, "my Canadian wedding present has another claim to my especial appreciation, for my gems are cut from the same stones used in the casket presented as a Canadian Jubilee offering to Her late Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria." None who know by more than mere hearsay the trend of unselfish thought for others which has always influenced the lives of the parents of the bride, will be surprised to learn that in the provision for Lady Marjorie's trousseau, the claims were considered of the several industries whose interests Lady Aberdeen has so faithfully promoted. For instance, the lingerie was supplied by the Irish Industries' Association; dress materials, by the Scottish, the Irish and the Canadian Home Industries' Association; whilst lace of Irish manufacture was largely used for the several trimmings.

The future career of Lady Marjorie Sinclair, begun under such happy auspices will assuredly be watched with the deepest interest by the women of a country in which were spent so many of the happy years of her childhood. H. A. B.

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