

Youths' Department.

THE COTTAGE IN THE WOODS.

(Written for the TRUE WITNESS by a bright little girl of fourteen.)

It was a warm day in August. I had come to the country to spend the day, shooting. I was in the depth of the woods; the heat being intense, I threw myself down under a tree to have a nap. I was just dazing off, when suddenly a little child appeared before me, with large blue eyes and long fair curls, and a most piteous little face; he held in his hands a bunch of wild flowers. I was so surprised to see him, that I did not know what to say. "Me and Jim," he said, "come and make Nellie better." He told me he was bringing the flowers to her, she loved them so much, and that she was very ill. He took me by the hand, and asked me to come and see; he also said, "Mammie will be glad to see you, she is crying and me do not know what to do. I took the child's hand, which he held out to me, and he led me across a little path which I had not seen. To my surprise, I beheld a little wooden cottage, and a woman sitting at the door, with her face buried in her hands. At the moment she saw us she drew back, but then came forward; we were just coming up to the door. She had on an old dress and her hair hung loosely in a knot. Her eyes were swollen from weeping. The boy ran to her and told her where he had met me, and that he brought me because he thought I would make sister Nellie better. The woman told me that she was a widow with two children, her husband had died a year ago, her little Jim was five years of age, and her little girl, who was crippled, was only three, "and oh! I am so frightened that God is going to take her from me." Then she said she was very poor and that the only way she could earn a little was by sewing, and that was how she supported herself and children. When her husband died he left her a small sum of money with which she had bought this house. Then she brought me into a bare, cheerless room, where her little crippled one lay on a broken pallet bed. I shall never forget the sight that met my eyes. On the bed lay a child with her eyes half closed, trying to kiss the flowers which little Jim had brought her. As soon as the mother came in, the poor thing burst into tears, saying that her child was dying and that she could do nothing for her. I asked her if the child was worse than she had been. Oh! yes, yes, she does not smile or look as if she knew me to-day. Jim has been gathering flowers every day for her, and she always loved them and played with them; but to-day, as you see, she has not the strength to lift her poor little head." I felt as if I ought to do my best to help her, so I said I would try and find a doctor. Once I got to the village I was not sure which way to go, so it was all hours before I reached the doctor's house. After explaining, he ordered his horse around, and in no time we were driving towards the cottage. On arriving at the house, I stayed behind and left the doctor go in alone, with the mother, to see the child.

While I was sitting by myself, thinking of how I would get home, little Jim came in and threw his arms round me, calling me "a good, good man; me am glad you brought a doctor to make Nellie better." Then the doctor came in. I asked him what he thought of the child. He said he would not pass the night, and he would be surprised if the poor mother lived much longer, as she was taking it so much to heart. After saying he would call again next morning, he wished me good night. I then went into the woman, who was sobbing at the edge of the bed, holding the poor little thin hand. Her first words were: "Oh! what will I do if she dies; how will I ever bear to lose another?" "Dear madam," said I, "you must not take it so much to heart. God orders everything for the best, although we sometimes do not see it." Hoping to comfort her although it would put me out, and not being sure of getting a train that evening to take me to the city, I told her I would remain the night with her;

so, after she gave me the best to eat that her poor home afforded, little Jim drew near me, and opening his little ragged coat, showed me a medal of the Sacred Heart, saying: "Me am sure it was the dear Sacred Heart who brought me to you in the woods." I took the child in my arms and kissed him, telling him to always love the Sacred Heart of Jesus and that He would be his best friend. When I was by myself I began to walk up and down the room, thinking of my own little ones at home. Then, after a while, I threw myself on a chair, thinking to rest until morning. After sleeping for some time, I woke up hearing the woman rushing in to me, screaming, with her little girl in her arms. "Oh, sir! sir! tell me my little one is not dead." What was I to say to comfort her, as I saw at once all was over? I said: "My dear woman, try and bear this affliction that God sends you; your little girl is happy, happy, now. See how she suffered, you have not lost her, she has only gone before as a little bright angel, praying for you. And think of the happiness when you meet again; this parting is only for a little while." I then prevailed upon her to try and lie down, and was longing for the doctor's return. At length he arrived. When he saw that Nellie was dead he said: "Poor, poor mother, this is more than she can bear; she is all broken up and she will not last long, as she seems to have heart disease." True enough, she fainted away and died that very night. We had her buried with her little girl. I then decided I would take the boy to the city and talk over his future with my wife, so after locking up the house, I started for the station with the poor little orphaned boy, who was sobbing out these words, "Oh, please bring mammie and Nellie." I soothed him with kind words, and on my arrival home my wife said to me: "Here you are at last, dear George, but who is that poor forsaken little creature?" I then told her of my adventure, and we settled that we would put him with the dear kind nuns, who would foster in him his faith. I heard years afterwards that he became a priest and his great devotion was the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and he was always fond of telling his life's history to little children. I, for my part, never regretted the day that I spent in the woods. F. M. TERKOUX.

CATTLE AND SHEEP EXPORTS.

Cable advices received this week quote London and Bristol cattle 5½d; sheep, 6½d. Liverpool cattle, 5½d; sheep, 5½d; Glasgow, 5½d.

Export cattle purchased in Montreal during the week ranged from 3½c to 4c per lb. Hay, \$8 per ton. Moullie, \$22 per ton. Insurance, 1 per cent. Ocean freight, 50s to 55s.

LIVE STOCK MARKET—Sept. 3.

There were about 350 head of butchers' cattle, 100 calves and 850 sheep and lambs offered at the East End Abattoir to-day. The butchers were present in considerable numbers, but trade was slow owing to the higher prices demanded for all kinds of cattle, and some of the butchers maintain that prices were over one quarter of a cent per lb. more than were paid for similar stock last week. Sales of the best butchers cattle were made at 3½c to 3½c per lb. and a few


were held at 4c per lb. Pretty good stock sold at from 3c to 3½c; common dry cows at from 2½c to 3c, and the leaner beasts at from 2c to 2½c per lb. There was a good demand for calves at higher prices. Mr. Bourassa bought 8 of the best calves paying from \$7 to \$9 each for them. Common calves sold at from \$2.50 to \$5 each. Shippers are paying about 3½c per lb. for good large sheep and the others are sold at from \$2 to \$3.50 each. Good lambs sell in lots at from \$2.70 to \$3 each; common lambs at from \$2.25 to \$2.50 each and the culls at \$1.50 to \$2 each. Fat hogs are in good supply and continue to sell at about 4c per lb.

THE MODERN WAY.

"Well," said the parson to the young couple he had just married, "have you made any plans for the honeymoon?"

"Yes," replied the young man, "my wife will go to Dakota for three months, while I will spend the time in some country place training for the ring. At the end of that time my wife will have obtained her divorce, and we will both immediately go on the stage."—Puck.

From the tenth to the fifteenth century female education in Europe consisted of reading, singing and embroidery work.



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LAKE ST. LOUIS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tenders for New Channel, Lake St. Louis," will be received at this office up to noon on Tuesday, the 18th day of September, 1894, for the formation of a new channel in Lake St. Louis, section No. 1.

Plans and specification of the work to be done can be seen on and after the 23rd day of August, 1894, at the office of the Chief Engineer of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, and at the Superintending Engineer's office in Montreal, where forms of tender can be obtained.

In the case of firms there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation, and place of residence of each member of the same, and further, an accepted bank cheque, for the sum of \$5,000.00 must accompany the tender. This accepted cheque must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the work at the rates and on the terms stated in offer submitted. The accepted cheque thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
J. H. BALDERSON,
Secretary.

Dept. of Railways and Canals
Ottawa, 4th August, 1894.

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