

A BRAVE NOVA SCOTIA WOMAN.

IT was a still, sultry night in June, and very dark. Mr. McKay, one of the early settlers in the backwoods of Nova Scotia, was away on a salmon-spearer expedition, and his young wife was keeping his supper hot on the brands of the great fireplace in their little log cabin. Not a sound was to be heard save the buzzing of June bugs against the window.

Suddenly a wild, shrill, bleat of terror from a calf, which was fastened by a rope to the cabin, caused Mrs. McKay to start up and rush to the doorway. Seizing a brand from the fireplace, she saw by its light a huge bear hugging the calf, and without an instant's hesitation, she thrust the brand into the bear's face. He loosened his hold of the calf and jumped toward the woman; she ran inside the little log hut, closely followed by the bear.

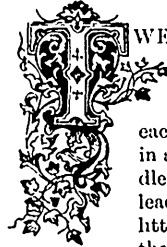
The baby's cradle was overturned, but the brave woman, snatching a blazing brand from the fire, confronted the bear. His bearship coming too near, his long fur was singed, and with a roar of terror, he ran outside and made off for the woods.

Mrs. McKay picked up the baby, brought the frightened calf into the cabin, rebuilt the fire, and then sat down calmly to await her husband's return.—*Our Animal Friends.*

A BRIGHT POLLY.

AN amusing story is told of a parrot which was brought from abroad by a sailor, and was bought from him. It was soon found to be an impossible companion on account of its atrocious language, no doubt learned on shipboard. The cook undertook to reclaim it from its bad ways, and her course of education was at once simple and efficacious. Whenever the bird made an unseemly remark she dashed a cup of water at it saying, "That is for saying naughty words." The parrot became a reformed character, and in time was admitted to the dining-room, where it delighted every one with its sayings and doings. One day a large cat sprang upon the outside sill of the happily closed window, and, the wood-work below being narrow, he miscalculated his distance, and fell back with a loud splash into the water-butts below. The parrot cocked his head on one side at the familiar sound, and exclaimed in triumph, "That's for saying naughty words!"

OUR INFLUENCE AND WHAT IT WILL DO.—AN OBJECT LESSON.



TWELVE small colored candles represent twelve children, and are stood upright in a row on the table or desk. (If each candle is warmed and placed in an individual butter plate, candle-sticks will not be needed.) The leader of the meeting holds up one little candle, which he lights, and then says: "This represents selfish little boy who wants to shine just for himself." He then places the lighted candle apart from the others and covers it with a two-quart glass fruit jar.

"We will leave him shining for himself and will see what this little girl will do," the leader says, lighting a pretty pink candle.

"This little girl wants to live for others," the leader continues, "so she begins by lighting all the other candles from her own light," and, suiting the action to the word, all the candles are lighted by the pink candle.

All in a row are now brightly burning, and the leader turns his attention to the selfish little boy: "Why, what is the matter with him?" the leader asks. The children look and answer at once, "His light is gone out." This exercise teaches its own lesson, a lesson that children will not soon forget.

Mrs. Powell's illustration from a plant teaches another important lesson in connection with our topic. A sickly-looking geranium plant in a pot is brought into the meeting. Its leaves are few and small, it makes no pretensions to blossoms or even beauty.

"What is the matter with the plant?" the leader asks.

"It needs water," one child may say. "It has been out in the cold," another guesses; but the leader says: "It is dying for want of sunshine. It has been put away under a bench in the greenhouse and the influence it needed for its life and growth has been lacking. It would soon die unless it had been brought out into the sunlight."

So we see by these two object lessons that our mission in the world is to shine, and that we cannot shine until we have first been shined upon.—*The Epworth Herald.*