

cultivation and harvesting of the crop were shown.

The last ten minutes before noon were devoted to a drill upon the words written on the board, including the use of them in intelligible sentences. This took the place for the day of the more formal spelling lesson.

Having received a cordial invitation to do so, I was at the schoolroom door at the beginning of the afternoon session. The children hailed me with delighted exclamations: "Oh! have you come to hear more about potatoes? Isn't it fun? etc. I quite agreed, and waited as eagerly as they for further developments.

First, in the afternoon, came a reading lesson—an interesting little article on the potato beetle and its relation to the potato industry in Nova Scotia. This was taken from some agricultural magazine, and written on the board. The children eagerly vied with each other for the chance to read and took great interest in reading, not only correctly but intelligently as well.

By this time, I thought that the resources of even the resourceful Miss Brown must be at an end, but no, next came the suggestion that a composition should be written on "The enemies of the potato."

When finished, these compositions were copied into booklets, the covers for which would be made that afternoon. The interest with which the pupils applied themselves to the usually irksome task of planning out an essay was indeed remarkable. The compositions were begun in school and left to be finished before Monday.

As I glanced at a few books, I saw careful outlines being constructed and notes jotted down. Miss Brown, in the meanwhile, seemed everywhere at once, encouraging the lazy, helping the dull, giving a word of praise to the diligent.

The drawing lesson followed this, as the compositions were to be illustrated. Careful drawings of the tuber were first made, the same to be pasted in the booklets. Then dark green construction papers 12 by 9 inches were passed round, and folded in booklet form; while black paper was cut into various designs and pasted to the green. A few simple ideas were drawn on the board, but some of the best results were quite original. One of the most effective was

drawn by a little colored boy with considerable artistic talent. He had cut a silhouette of a man wearing a broad brimmed hat bending over a hoe, with a pile of something—presumably potatoes—beside him.

When covers were completed, work was put away for the day. As the dismissing bell rang, was it a wonder that a reluctant "Oh!" arose to every lip. No one had realized that the afternoon was over.

As I bade Miss Brown good-by, I thought it not surprising that, as I heard one of them say, her pupils wished "There never was no Saturday."

M. I. JENNISON.

THE STEMLESS VIOLETS.

J. VROOM.

Our native violets may be divided into three sections: (1) those without stems or offsets, (2) those with offsets or runners more or less in evidence, and (3) those with leafy stems. These notes deal with the first section, and are an attempt to point out the characters in the different species which will most easily lead to identification. The names are those of the seventh edition of Gray's Manual, to which the reader is referred for fuller descriptions.

Just how many different species of the stemless blue violets occur in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada is an open question, and one that will not very soon be settled to the satisfaction of everybody. Closely related species are known to hybridize freely, producing an endless number of intermediate forms. Seedlings from these natural hybrids may add to the confusion. The beginner, therefore, must look for those specimens that will answer best to the descriptions of recognized species, and be content to leave the others undetermined. The study of the various forms is attractive, with all its difficulties, and may lead to the recognition of some new species.

1. Hooded Violet, or Meadow Violet. *Viola cucullata* Ait.

Common in low grounds. Flowers usually blue, with a darker centre; strongly knobbed hairs in the bearding of the lateral petals. The Hooded Violet is so called from the shape of the young leaves, rolled inward at the base, though this is not peculiar to the species.