A SMALL BOY'S TEMPERANCE SPEECH.

Some people laugh and wonder What little boys can do To help this temp'rance thunder Roll all the big world through; I'd have them look behind them When they were small, and then I'd like to just remind them That little boys make men!

The bud becomes a flower, The acorn grows a tree, The minutes make the hour-Tis just the same with me. I'm small, but I am growing, As quickly as I can; A temp'rance boy like me is bound To make a temp'rance man. -Youth's Examiner.

THE POTATO BEETLE'S FRIEND

There is a curious association between certain plants and certain animals which looks almost like a mutual affection. catnip, which came from Europe with the cats, seems never to grow where there are no cats to nibble it. The "buffalo grass" is disappearing with the buffalo, and along with the settlers who are occupying the plains, where the buffalo used to rove, come many new plants, some of them entirely uninvited. The burdock, for instance, clings tenaciously to human kind, and seems unwilling to grow unless there are "folks" somewhere in sight. And there no one can exterminate it.

One of the most remarkable instances of the apparent migration of a plant, as if to keep company with an insect, is the removal of the homely plant which botanists call solanum rostratum, from the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains eastward.

About the year 1867 the farmers of the Mississippi Valley began to be aware of a new pest in their fields, whose ravages were becoming alarming. A stocky, gaudily striped beetle, which multiplied at an alarming rate, had begun to devour their potato vines. Nothing could stay or ex-terminate the plague. The potatoes, de-prived of their vines, rotted in the ground, and an important crop was lost:

This beetle naturally received from the farmers the name of "potato bug." It was found to have begun an eastward march from the uncultivated strip of Eastern Colorado and Eastern Kansas, and it has consequently since been known as the Colorado potato beetle.

It was also found that in the region of its origin this beetle had fed upon Solanum rostratum, a plant belonging to the same genus as the potato. Doubtless the insect had been quite content with this article of food. But some settlers planted a field of potatoes, and the beetle at once fell in love

Migrating eastward in eager search of its new food, the Colorado beetle multiplied with astonishing rapidity. In a few years it had covered the whole country, and had devastated potato fields clear to the Atlantic coast. Then some of the bettles, or their eggs, were carried in vessels across the ocean, and the insect began a new career of conquest in the Old World, for it spread over the British Isles and the Continent of Europe.

All this because some one had planted a potato field in Colorado. But what about the Solanum rostratum, so heartlessly abandoned by its old friend? One would suppose that, left free from the devouring attentions of the beetle, it would have been content to stay where it was; but this has not been the case. The weed seems to have set out immediately on a journey in search of the beetle.

The prevailing direction of plant migration in this country is westward. With the settlement of the country, the plants of Europe and of Eastern America tend to crowd out the native vegetation of the West. But the Solanum proves an exception to the rule. Apparently it believes that its destiny is to be eaten; nothing but the potato beetle will eat it, and so it comes east to find that insect. It has spread over cultivated lands in Texas and Missouri, and last summer Prof. L. H. Pammel found it growing at Watertown,

Wherever it goes it is a troublesome weed, and seems to increase in size as it comes eastward.

THE TAHRIA BROTHERHOOD.

At Samarkand the mosque was well filled with an audience seated on the floor; whilst opposite the entrance, near the kibleh, were eleven men, ejaculating prayers with loud cries and violent movements of the body. They utter exclanations, such as, "Hashi rabi jal, Allah!" ("My defence is the Lord, may Allah be magnified!") "No fi kalbi kir Allah!" ("There is nothing but God in my heart j") "Nuri Muhammad sall Allah!" ("My light, Muhammad, God bless him!") These words, or some of them, are chanted to various semi-musical tones; first in a low voice, and accompanied by a movement of the head over the left shoulder towards the heart; then back, then to the right shoulder, and then down, as if directing all the movements of the heart. Sometimes I observed a man, more excited than the rest, shout a sentence, throw out his arms, dance, jump, and then slap his left breast with such a force as to make the place ring. These expressions are repeated several hundreds of times, till the devotees get so exhausted and so hoarse that their repetitions sound like a succession of groans, and we could see the perspiration running through their clothes. Some were obliged to give up and rest, whilst others were pushed out by the Ishan, who was conducting, and who called some one else to fill up the gaps in the ranks. When their voices have become entirely hoarse with one cry, another is begun. They sit at first in a row; but later on, as the movement quickens, each puts his hand on his neighbor's shoulders, and they form in a group, as Dr. Schuyler says, "in several concentric rings;" but which could remind a native of Blackheath of nothing but a group of players during a "scrimmage" in Rugby football, as they sway from side to side of the mosque, leaping about, jumping up and down, and crying, "Hai! Allah, hai!" like a pack of madmen, till the Ishan gives them a rest by reciting a prayer, or a Nafiz recites poetry; or, as at Samarkand, a dervish sings a solo in a fervid thrilling voice.—Dr. Landsell's "Through Asia" (Sampson Low), now issued in one volume.

WILLIAM BURNS.

It was at Newchwang that William Burns spent his last days. At the lower part of the town, not far from a temple, there is a house he lived in, already considerably changed and translated by recall when the considerably changed and tenanted by people who never heard his name: they were merely two little rooms in a Chinese house, for he had adopted many of the Chinese habits as well as dress, and could live on eggs and Chinese scones that to anyone else have the flavor and consistency of putty. The families change rapidly at these ports, ten years effecting more than forty would at home; but there are a few that preserve the pleasant traditions of the man, his earnestness and holiness, his genial ways and bright smile. He did not lay much stress upon his costume, though they tell that long habit had rendered it natural, and that his face had caught the Chinese expression. He used to say that he was content if it allowed him to pass among men without untice. He was revising his translation of the "Pilgrim's Progress," and would slip into a quiet corner of a tea-house, sip the tea and listen eagerly to the conversation. As soon as he heard a new colloquial phrase he was content, and would withdraw rejoicing, and the first greeting that his friends had would be, "I have got a new phrase," as he repeated it in high glee. There is no personality, apparently, so marked as his among Christian missionaries. Men spoke of him everywhere with regard and admiration, and the impression he made upon Chinese whom he did not win to Christianity seems to have been profound. It was maining the impression of a noble and unselfish character of a pure and single-minded and intensely earnest man .- Dr. Fleming Stephenson's Letters.

THINK WHAT IS LEFT.

Think not alone of what the Lord hath taken, Thou whom his love has of some joy bereft, But, in the moments thou art most forsaken Think what his love hath left -Anon.

PRIZE BIBLE COMPETITION.

At last we are able to put before our readers the results of our young people's study of the life of Abraham. After careful consideration of the one hundred and twelve pages sent in, the prizes have been awarded as follows :--

FIRST PRIZE-Cora G. Blair (aged 13)

Rockburn, Que.
Second Prize-Lillian Newton, (aged

5) Ottawa, Kansas. Тніко Ркіze—William Flook, (aged 13) Ingersoll, Ont.

HONORABLE MENTION.

The following are also deserving of honorable mention:—Elias W. Le Grand, Quebec; Fred Robertson, Quebec; Clara Everett, New Brunswick; J. G. Skelcher, Quebec, and Maude M. North, Ontario. Of these papers that of Elias W. Le Grand wins special mention for neatness.

The following are the names of the rest of the competitors, who have done work

The following are the names of the rest of the competitors, who have done work deserving of much credit:—

Ermina Plant, New Brunswick; Edith J. Buswell, Ontario; Minnie J. Speer, Manitoba; Archibald H. Tree, British Columbia; Eva Campbell, Manitoha; Clara Henry, Ontario; George A. Jordan, Quebec; Emma Darling, Ontario; Charles Burchell, Cape Breton; William Robert son, Quebec; Mary J. MacLennan, Ontario; Agnes Danard, Ontario; Cora Lippineott, New Jersey; Sarah Brown, Minnesota; Walter J. Fordice, Quebec; Charles A. Newcomb, Nova Scotia; George H. Lawrence, New Brunswick; Alico Maud Dean, Quebec; Leblanco Huntly, New Brunswick; Hattie Grose, Ontario; Trenholme W. Foe, British Columbia; Ada Gilbart, Ontario; Nettiso B. Young, Nova Scotia; Effle Alberta Micklejohn, Quebec; Mary C. Brown, Quebec; Joseph Guthrie, New York; Maud Gourlay, Ontario; Miss Agnes Guthrie, New York; Jessio A. Patullo, Ontario; Alfred Fowler, Ontario; Jeannic Currie, Ontario; Ellen Weir, Ontario; Jeannic Currie, Ontario; Stella Findlay, Ontario; Jeannic Currie, Ontario; Stella Findlay, Ontario; Katy Wasley, Ontario; Stella Findlay, Ontario; Katy Wasley, Ontario; Suebec; Willie Macalpine, Ontario; Mary Wilson, Quebec; Sophie Carr; Prince Edward Island; Edith Hodgins, Ontario; Ja. Sutherland, Illinois; Rosa Jane Kennedy, Ontario; George J. Sharwan, Ontario; Jona Edward Island; George J. Sharwan, Ontario; Mary Wilson, Chario; George J. Sharwan, Ontario; Stella Mullen, Nova Scotia; Jessie Stears, Ontario; George J. Sharwan, Ontario; Sarah A. Fisher, Ontario; Ada Clark, Manitoba; S. E. C. Tomlison, Ontario; Sarah Wm. Craven Macartney, Ontario; Hall Mullen, Nova Scotia; Edith McCredic, Ontario; George J. Sharwan, Ontario; Sarah S. Dyson, Wisconsin, U. S.: Flora Stewart, Ontario; Charlie Reid, Ontario; Haller Campball, Ontario; Charlie Reid, Ontario; Haller Campball, Ontario; Charlie Reid, Ontario; William Neury Drake, Nova Scotia; Eleanor Bonham, Quebec; May A. J. Smith, Ontario; John Alexander Wills, Ontario; Charlie Reid, Ontario; Enges Mylls, deserving of much credit:—

THE PRIZE STORY.

Below we give the prize story. It is by no means perfect, but for a little girl of thirteen is very good indeed.

LIFE OF ABRAHAM.

LIFE OF ABRAHAM.

There was a man who lived in Mesopotamia named Abram, (father of elevation), born two years after the death of Noah, (B. 1996). The peoplethere were idolaters, his father, Terah, was said to be an idolater, but Abram worshipped God, so God told him togo to Canaan. He obeyed, taking with him his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot. This was the first proof of his great faith. God told Abram that He would give Canaan to his descendants; and though Abram had no children he believed God.

Soon, Abram and Lot grow so rich in flocks and herds that they could not live together. Abram gave Lot his choice of the country, and Lot chose Sodom, one of five wicked cities. After Lot had been at Sodom a while, Chedorlaomer, went against Sodom and took the people prisoners, amongst them Lot. Abram went with an army and defeated Chedorlaomer and set Lot free.

an army and defeated Chedorlaomer and set Lot free.

Abram had another wife, Hagar, and she had a son, named Ishmael. In Abram's ninety-ninth year, the Lord appeared to him, and changed his name Abram, to Abraham, (father of a multitude), and Sarai's to Sarah (princess). He told Abraham that Sarah should have a son, and they should name him Isaac'a name meaning "laughter,"

Soon after some angels came and told Abraham that they were going to destroy Sodom, on account of its wickedness, but at the entreaty of Abraham, they spared Lotand his family, except Lot's wife, who, though forbidden to do so, looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. When Abraham was one hundred years old, Isaac-was

born. Ishmael behaved very unkindly to his lit-tle brother Isaac, which grieved and displeased Abraham and Sarah. Sarah said "Cast out this bond-woman and her son." God commanded

Abraham and Sarah. Sarah said Cast out this bond-woman and her son." God commanded Abraham to do so.

When Isane was twenty-five years old God told Abraham to sacrificehim on Mt. Moriah, but when all the preparations were made. God told him to stop, that he only wanted to try his faith. Twelve years after this, Sarah died at Hobron. at the age of a hundred and twenty seven, and was buried in the Cave of Machpelah, which Abraham bought from Ephron one of the sons of Heth, for four hundred shekels of silver. It is remarkable that her age is the only woman's age mentioned in the Bible.

Abraham senta servant to Haran to get a wife for Isaac,; he found one named Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, a relation of Abraham.

Abraham had another wife named Keturah, by her he had six sons, he gave them presents, and sent them away; the Arabs are their descendants. He left all his wealth to Isaac. He died at the age of one hundred and seventy-five, and was buried beside Sarah in Machpelah.

Cora G. Blair.

CORA G. BLAIR.

Rockburn, Quebec.

OUR NEXT OFFER.

In our next number we hope to give particulars of a second set of prizes and shall expect four or five hundred at least to try for one of them .- Editor "Northern Mes-

NEW CLUB RATES.

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