

A SMALL BOY'S TEMPERANCE SPEECH.

Some people laugh and wonder
What little boys can do
To help this temperance thunder...

-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.

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...

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.

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...

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.

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...

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?

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.

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 kiblah, were eleven men, ejaculating prayers with loud cries and violent movements of the body.

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 tenanted by people who never heard his name.

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.

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.

FIRST PRIZE—Cora G. Blair (aged 13) Rockburn, Que.

SECOND PRIZE—Lillian Newton, (aged 15) Ottawa, Kansas.

THIRD PRIZE—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.

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, Manitoba; Clara Henry, Ontario; George A. Jordan, Quebec; Emma Darling, Ontario; Charles Birchell, Cape Breton; William Robertson, Quebec; Mary J. MacLennan, Ontario; Agnes Danard, Ontario; Cora Lippincott, New Jersey; Sarah Brown, Minnesota; Walter J. Fordice, Quebec; Charles A. Newcomb, Nova Scotia; George H. Lawrence, New Brunswick; Alice Maud Dean, Quebec; Leblanc Huntly, New Brunswick; Hattie Grose, Ontario; Trenholme W. Fee, British Columbia; Ada Gilbert, Ontario; Nettie B. Young, Nova Scotia; Effie Alberta Micklejohn, Quebec; Mary C. Brown, Quebec; Joseph Guthrie, New York; Maud Gourlay, Ontario; Miss Agnes Guthrie, New York; Jessie Ann Campbell, Ontario; Luella Guthrie, New York; Jessie A. Patullo, Ontario; Alfred Fowler, Ontario; Jeannie Currie, Ontario; Ellen Weir, Ontario; Maggie Thomas, Ontario; Stella Findlay, Ontario; Katy Wasley, Ontario; Minnie A. Loomer, Nova Scotia; John Burns, Quebec; Willie Macalpine, Ontario; Mary Wilson, Quebec; Sophie Carr; Prince Edward Island; Edith Hodgins, Ontario; J. A. Sutherland, Illinois; Rosa Jane Kennedy, Ontario; Geo. G. Garbutt, Ontario; Samantha Nallman, Ontario; John E. Mahon, Nova Scotia; Harry G. H. Dunbar, Nova Scotia; Edith McCroddic, Ontario; George J. Sharvan, Ontario; Estella Mullen, Nova Scotia; Jessie Stears, Ontario; Jas. S. Stewart, Ontario; Ruby Smith, Ontario; Rosa A. Fisher, Ontario; Annie M. Adams, Ontario; Christine Mitchell, Manitoba; Wm. Craven Macartney, Ontario; Ada Clark, Manitoba; S. E. C. Tomlinson, Ontario; Josie N. Tedford, Nova Scotia; Amy Davidson, Ontario; Miss Rebecca J. McDonald, Ontario; Isabella N. Lawrence, New York; Maggie Miller Campbell, Ontario; Kate Byrnes, Ontario; Fred B. Butt, Ontario; John H. Currie, Ontario; Sarah S. Dyson, Wisconsin; U. S. Flora Stewart, Ontario; Edgar Miller, Ontario; William Neury Drake, Nova Scotia; Eleanor Bonham, Quebec; May A. J. Smith, Ontario; John Alexander Willis, Ontario; Charlie Reid, Ontario; Walter George Robertson, Ontario; Louisa Allison, Nova Scotia; Clara Lewis, Quebec; Mabel Shugg, Ontario; Agnes Phyllis Robertson, Quebec; Minnie Calbeck, Prince Edward Island; Jennet Ida Beggs, Ontario; Sarah A. M. Gillivray, Assa., North West Territory; Lizzie Beattie, Quebec; Miss Hattie Woodroff, Nova Scotia; Mary V. Lyon, Manitoba; Malcolm Delley, Newfoundland; M. E. Grassick, Manitoba; Kate Evans, Ontario; Eddie Logan, Nova Scotia; Louisa V. Leach, Michigan; Nellie A. Findlay, Ontario; Amelia B. Wilkie, Ontario; Mary A. McKinnage, Nova Scotia; Albert Clemons, Ontario; Ernest M. Straight, New Brunswick; John G. Cummins, Ontario; Della Anderson, Ontario; William J. Ross, Uxbridge; Isabella Stephen, Ontario; Mary Mills, Ontario; James D. Leitch, Ontario; William C. Brown, Ontario.

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.

There was a man who lived in Mesopotamia named Abram, (father of elevation), born two years after the death of Noah, (B. C. 1996). The people there were idolaters, but Abram worshipped God, so God told him to go to Canaan.

Soon, Abram and Lot grew 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.

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 Sarah's to Sarah (princess).

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 Lot and his family, except Lot's wife, who, though forbidden to do so, looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

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

When Isaac was twenty-five years old God told Abraham to sacrifice him 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 Hebron, 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.

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.

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 Messenger."

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THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published every fortnight at Nos. 321 and 323 St. James St., Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal. All business communications should be addressed "John Dougall & Son," and all letters to the Editor should be addressed "Editor of the 'Witness'."