

as well as boys, besides a large airy hospital, with an able staff of physicians, and last, and certainly least, a gaol for its occasional prisoners. Fort Napier looks down upon the city it protects, and when it has its large array of military tents pitched picturesquely about it, it gives life and variety to the Capital of Natal.

WE START FOR THE TRANSVAAL.

It was with some reluctance that we parted from our old friends in new surroundings, as well as with the many new friends who had helped to make our visit to Pieter-Maritzburg one to be always most pleasantly remembered.

In my Log, under date 1st June, 1875, I find this entry: Off at last! How can I describe our start from the yard of the Royal Hotel, where, amongst those who gathered around to bid us adieu, many stretched forth helping hands to perform what seemed like a magician's task, the compressing of what must go into spaces which appeared already filled to overflowing? The human freight had still to adjust itself, but where? A narrow wedge at one side of the wagon, but over which oozed packages, hard as well as soft, attracted my attention. If I could but once get into that, and no one but myself could do so, that should be my nook! Thus, my travelling companions, my husband, keen on his business errand, and the Rev. Mr. G., on missionary thoughts intent, would be free to use the two very small spaces left for passengers, if only they could squeeze themselves into them, a feat which was finally accomplished, and which became by daily practice, aided by the jolting of the wagon and the application of the old adage, "Necessity is the mother of invention," one less difficult of achievement.

Our eight horses had been sent on to the top of the town hill, according to the good Natal fashion of starting with fresh beasts from thence, instead of wearing them out at the outset of a long "trek," oxen, for a certain fee per head, being hired for this supplementary duty.

With measured tread our lumbering animals dragged us up that picturesque but interminable hill, and I caught myself saying rejoicingly, "thanks be that horses and not oxen are to take us over the 600 miles of berg and veldt between Natal and the Transvaal;" but before twenty-four hours had passed I mentally begged pardon of those patient oxen, for when the exchange was made our travelling troubles really began. H. A. B.

To be continued.

The Beaver Circle.

OUR SENIOR BEAVERS.

Some More Competition Letters.



Daisy Fleabane.
(Drawn by Amy Seburn.)

HOUND'S TONGUE, CARAWAY, DANDELION.

The hound's tongue is composed of several stalks from one root. The stalks are soft, and about as thick as a lead-pencil at the root. I got my specimen on the road, in the swamp near our school. It also grows quite plentifully in open spaces in the woods. The leaf is shaped like a hound's tongue, and that



Trillium.
(Drawn by Winifred Colwell.)

is where it gets its name. There are several clusters of small, red flowers. These grow on every stalk of the plant. The root is not very hairy, and is pretty large. [Most of the Beavers will recognize hound's tongue most readily if mention be made of the little, flat, hard "burs" that follow the flowers.—Ed.]

The caraway is an aromatic plant. We get caraway seed from it. The seed is used in buns. We have quite a patch of it in the corner of our lawn. I didn't know what the name of it was for quite a while. The flower is white, composed of many bunches of blossoms. It is not very common around here. It comes up



Star Flower.
(Drawn by Hilda Johnson.)

every spring, and seems to die out in the winter-time. It branches off right from the root.

The dandelion is a very common roadside plant. It also grows in gardens, fields, and lawns. It does not matter much about the soil, for it grows everywhere. The stalks are hollow, and the vein of the leaf is also hollow. It is a very early plant, and goes to seed quickly. The seed is blown off by the wind, and the plant spreads very rapidly. LINDSAY McLENNAN (age 11, Sr. IV.) R. R. No. 5, Guelph, Ont.

DOG-TOOTH VIOLET, TRILLIUM, INDIAN TURNIP.

The root of the dog-tooth violet is a small bulb, from one-quarter to one-half inch in diameter, and having numerous

rootlets at its base. Rising from the root are two leaves which clasp the scape about one-third to one-half way up. These leaves are lanceolate, parallel-veined, regular, a greenish-yellow, with brownish blotches, the blade being from one-half to one inch wide, and from three to six inches long.

Rising from the root is a single, fleshy, herbaceous scape, from eight to twelve inches high, and having at its summit a single terminal complete flower.

The perianth is divided into two rings, each ring consisting of three sepals. The sepals of the outer ring are lanceolate, recurved, a yellowish-brown on outside, and yellow, streaked with brown on inside. The sepals of the inner ring are of a more brilliant yellow, base of inner side having numerous brown spots. The stamens are hexandrous, and consist of filament and adnate anthers, which open at sides when pollen is ripe. The pistil consists of three stigmatic surfaces, one style, and a three-carpelled ovary.

The adder's tongue, as this flower is often called, grows in rich, damp soil, and flowers during April, May, and early June.



LADY'S SLIPPER
(Drawn by Catherine MacDonald.)

The Trillium.—The trillium has a horizontal rootstock that is abruptly ringed, having numerous rootlets, and being decayed at one end.

Rising from the rootstock is the decayed stem of last year's growth, and rising from the base of this is a fleshy, solid, herbaceous, erect stem, from eight to twelve inches high, having at its summit a whorl of three rhombic-shaped, net-veined, abruptly-pointed sessile leaves.

Rising from the middle of the whorl is a single, solid peduncle, about three or four inches high, and having at its summit a single, regular, complete, terminal flower.

The calyx consists of three green net-veined, polyphyllous, inferior, ovate, sharply-lanceolate sepals. The corolla consists of three inferior, net-veined, ovate, sharply-lanceolate petals (color, either a dark purple, white, or pink and white). The hexandrous, hypogynous stamens, consist of filament and innate anthers. The pistil consists of three recurving stigmas and a three-carpelled ovary.

The trillium grows in rich, shady ground, during April, May, and June.

Indian Turnip.—The root of the Indian turnip consists of a round, wrinkled, fleshy corm, sometimes over two inches in diameter.

Rising from the root is the single scape, or stem, which is sheathed by the base of the leaves. The leaf is on a long, naked stalk, and divided into three ovate-lanceolate leaflets. The sheath that protects the spadix, or central column, is a hood of a pale green color, with brown stripes. The fruit, when ripe, is a bright scarlet, and clusters around the base of the scape. As the berries ripen, the hood withers and shrivels to allow sunshine to enter.

In the root is a hot acrid juice of a poisonous nature, but which, after application of heat, is rendered harmless



SHOWY ORCHIS

(Drawn by Catherine MacDonald.)

and useful. This plant gets its name from the fact that the Indians used it as a remedy for colic, etc. The juice of this plant, when boiled in milk, is used in some places as a remedy for consumption. This plant has many names, some of which are cuckoo-pint, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and many others. During May, June, and July, the plant is found in forests, or in rich, damp, shady soil. WINFRED COLWELL.

Brookville, N. B.

HEPATICA, SPRING BEAUTY, DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—I have enjoyed reading your letters, but have never got up courage to write until now. My father has taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for several years, and enjoys reading it very much. I am going to try for the flower competition, and hope to be successful. I go to High School and am in the First Form.

My first flower is the hepatica. I found it in quite rich soil in the woods. It is a rather peculiar flower, because the large, open leaves are last year's, and this year's leaves are closed and hairy.

My second flower is the spring beauty. It is perhaps one of our most common, early spring flowers. The soft stem springs from a brown tuber. It grows in fertile soil in the woods, or along fences. The flowers are in a raceme, and are very pretty when they first open, as they are pink, but fade with the bright sunlight.

My third flower is the Dutchman's breeches. Not many of my readers will be familiar with it by that name, as it



Bellwort.
(Drawn by Catherine MacDonald.)