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THE WESTERN MISSIONARY

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A PARABLE—"THE FARMER AND HIS SONS."

John Bluebanner has been engaged for many years in extensive farming operations along the upper lakes, the St. Lawrence, and down by the sea. His farm has been fairly worked in some districts where the Scotch Thistle grows, but where noxious weeds of other kinds abound his crops are poor. His failure has been chiefly in neglecting his work in winter, while doing it fairly well in summer. Some of his neighbors spend their winter in what John thinks excessive exhilaration in robbing his granary, and especially in removing to their farms without his leave some of his dead and useless material. A few years ago John took up a large and valuable tract of country in the Northwest. His neighbors are surprised at his recent energy, for the old farmer is waking up in his western work.

Not long ago farmer Bluebanner gathered his sons around him to discuss the prospects. His most vigorous son, Peter Summer-session pleaded for a new plan, and said the Muskoka, Manitoba, and far western farms might be thoroughly worked, in winter as well as summer, if the workmen were better distributed. This startled farmer John. "We never did it before," said he, "and I don't care for changes." But replied faithful Peter, "God fulfils himself in many ways." "Why should we be the slaves of precedent?" "Are we not men enough to rise to our opportunities?"

But John Bluebanner has another son, Thomas Extra-Mural. He is a very sickly fellow. He strongly opposed Peter's plan, and promised great things if his advice were taken. Lately however Thomas has been suffering very much from heart-failure, and it is thought will not live long.

A third son of this good husbandman is J. Catechist-School. He is said to have a scheme in his mind but has not thus far made it fully known.

The latest probabilities are that farmer Bluebanner will adopt Peter's plan, and have his promising son take up his permanent abode in Winnipeg and oversee the western estate.

AUGUSTINE CHURCH, WINNIPEG.

Rev. R. G. McBeth M. A. has accepted the call to this church. He is likely to be settled about the 20th inst. We trust he may have a long and useful pastorate.