

EXILED.

EUGENE FIELD.

It comes to me in a silence, When the black night is low— When the black night is low— When the black night is low—

CACTUS CULTURE.

We have received from A. Blanc, of Philadelphia, a most interesting little book, "Hints on Cacti," which will be found both amusing and instructive to all who love plants.

The great Western and Mexican plateaus are the home of the cactus family, and it is in this land of lost races, rock-dwellings, ancient pueblos and rankling plains that they are found in their perfection.

The writer of the little book in question tells us how he commenced with a dozen varieties of cacti on a window-shelf, being interested in their curious forms, easy culture and gorgeous flowers.

But comparatively few species are known to the general public. One variety of Epiphyllum under the name of "Crab," or "Lobster Claw" cactus is quite commonly cultivated.

"Turk's Cap," "Bishop's Hood" or "Pope's Hat," is another odd species, but the flowers of some of these sorts are rather disappointing.

"Old Man" (Pilococcus Senilis) with its long, silken, hair-like filaments, is occasionally cultivated and some times a "prickly pear" (Opuntia) or some rarer variety of cactus, but besides these, few know of the value of these curious freaks of nature.

The "rainbow" cactus (Echinocereus Candicans) with its symmetrical form, and many colored spines with large and brilliant flowers is one of the most satisfactory sorts for a beginner.

Phyllocactus superbus albus is one of the very finest specimens for bloom, and is also a desirable sort for an amateur.

We shall in future articles give further descriptions of these curious plants with directions for their culture. Our illustrations are kindly furnished us by Mr. Blanc, and we would advise all interested in cactus culture to send 10 cents for his valuable little book.

WORK FOR JUNE.

By this time the seed is mostly sown, the plants and bulbs are out, early flowers from seed sown in the house and the bulbs planted in fall, have been rewarding us for their care for several weeks.

The same treatment is also necessary with the pansy bed, and the sweet peas. If you would have them in luxuriance never let them go to seed, but cut continually.

Give blossoming plants an occasional fertilizing with liquid manure or a little top dressing about the roots and water generously.

Nearly all the house plants should now be plunged in the open border. This is considerable work, but the stronger growth of the plants will amply repay you for the trouble.

The Syringa bushes will flower more freely and make stronger growth if dish water and soap slops are occasionally poured about their roots, during the Summer.

A PILLAR OF HOUSE-LEAKS.

Who cannot remember seeing a little keg of house-leak covered with its green growth in the back yard of some old-fashioned farm-house, and having our interest excited by its odd name of "hen-and-chickens," and the queer growth of big and little clusters of green leaves? "Both Day" in the Housekeeper suggests a new and picturesque use for this little plant.

The green house-leak, or old hen-and-chickens, as it is variously called, is not usually considered a very ornamental plant, yet, under certain conditions, it may become a very desirable addition to any lawn or garden.

It thrives luxuriantly in the thatch of the English cottages, though it is probable that the moist atmosphere enables it to sustain life there, where in a drier climate it would fail; however, it seems to bear heat, drought and neglect almost with indifference, though it will repay care and attention.

New Ideas in Electricity.

Electricity promises to supplant both chemistry and mechanical methods in freeing metallic ores from dross. A method has lately been discovered by which, by the use of electricity, iron ore can be so softened as to be easily worked.

An electrical drilling machine has been invented that will drill a hole round, square or having as many sides as are wanted.

Sugar making by electricity is successfully carried on in Havana. The automatic switch block has been adapted to the regulation of house furnaces. By merely "pressing a button" in one's sleeping apartment the drafts of the furnace are thrown open and the house is thoroughly warmed before the family rise.

Electrical fireworks will shortly take the place of all other kinds and give us displays as brilliant as nature's own aurora borealis. Wood for paper making is reduced to pulp by electricity, and the pulp is bleached by the same mighty magician. Chlorate of potash is electrically made.

It has been found that several small electric motors are more economical than one large one, and the small ones can be adapted to almost any purpose. A low speed motor has lately been invented whose armature revolutions run as slow as 350 a minute. This small, low speed motor will give great saving in power. The small electric motor has already been adapted to many uses. By it a man can have a plant in his own house and grounds powerful enough to give him electric illumination. At the same time the plant can be so managed as to furnish power to run a sewing machine, fans, washing machines, etc.

Electricity will prove to be man's most useful servant. It will give him light and at the same time turn fans to cool him his hot weather. If a lighting apparatus is put into his grounds it can be maintained by the same machinery and will attract and destroy millions of insects that feed upon his garden.

While doing all the other things named it will give him yet another service. When he is weary and would doze off to the sound of sweet music he has only to connect the current with a music box, and the tireless wizard will pour into his ear till it ceases to hear and is lulled in sleep soft airs that fill the soul with peace and rest.

Superstitious Power in Russia.

The most absurd superstitions are rife in Russia. At Serpukhov, near Moscow, an official announcement was recently placarded at the street corners. The common people are unable to read. They requested a man, who looked like a priest, to decipher for them the contents of the bill. He hesitatingly and positively declared that it contained the warning that the city of Serpukhov would be swallowed in the ground. In less than an hour the news spread throughout the place, and the people abandoned their work and began streaming out into the fields in large crowds. All the factories were deserted by the laborers. It was some time before the frightened crowds were restored to reason and to their regular pursuits, but the originator of the trouble could not be found.—London Figure

Waterproof Hammocks.

Hammocks that are allowed to hang out most of the time are soon rotted by the action of the weather. It is said that they may be made "waterproof" by immersing in boiling linseed oil, and leaving them in it for a day or two. Then with a cloth rub off all the oil possible, and when the netting is dried it will last much longer than is otherwise would.

TOOTHACHE CAN generally be cured immediately by putting a small piece of cotton saturated with strong ammonia into the affected tooth.

How the Russians Eat.

"The Chaumiere" in Moscow is certainly the most luxurious and elegantly appointed restaurant in Europe. The large dining hall is a huge Winter garden with feathery and blooming mimosa as a background for the exquisitely served tables. In the middle of this unique restaurant-garden is a great marble fountain wherein trout and other delicately-flavored members of the finny tribe swim in deep clear water. When a guest orders a fish for his dinner, he is forthwith conducted by the head butler to this novel aquarium and is requested to select the fish most likely to tempt his fancy.

A long-handled silk net is then given to him and he can, if he pleases, catch his fish with sportsmanlike zest and dexterity, a feat which materially adds to his enjoyment and general appreciation of the dinner he is about to eat. Russians, who are very fond of flowers, do not relish a repeat when the table is not one mass of fragrant blossoms, and nowhere else in Europe does one see such gorgeous table decorations as in St. Petersburg or Moscow. Thousands of rubles are often spent for orchids to adorn the board of some wealthy boyard, and at the dinner given some time ago by Prince Narishkine to the Diplomatic Corps at St. Petersburg the flowers in the dining hall cost over 20,000 rubles.—Kansas City Times.

DRESS COMBINATIONS

Contrast in Colors the Thing to Be Desired.

Black and white is at all times a fashionable combination, and a striking one. When the dress fabric is black Lyons velvet with white detachable feathers for garniture, this is particularly the case. The skirt, which merely sweeps the floor, is plaited full at the back in single plaits; is slightly draped in front by tiny plaits, laid at the waist line. An elaborate panel of cut jet, embroidery done on white satin decorates one side. The front bodice is trimmed with a deep jetted fringe, falling over a band of white satin. An additional skirt trimming is a band of feathers which extend from side to side. The décolleté bodice is cut pointed back and front, and trimmed with set pieces, V shaped, made of the feathers. Loops of black velvet ribbon and feather tips ornament the shoulders. An egrette of tips and jet coronet make a suitable decoration for the hair. Long, white gloves and feather fan complete the toilet.—Chicago Mail.

The Seal Skin Industry.

The killing and skinning of the seals is altogether performed by native Aleuts, who are paid 40 cents a skin for their work. From the fat of the seal an oil is obtained which affords a most brilliant and beautiful light. The seal skins are taken to London in their salted state, and are there delivered at an establishment which is one of the two great fur markets of the world, the other being at Leipzig. To these two emporiums all the furs of the world are brought by the producers and sorted out by experts according to quality and color. Once a year seals of the two great establishments has an auction sale to which fur buyers come from everywhere. All the furs are catalogued, so that a merchant can procure any number of any sort of skins, perfectly matched, without seeing them at all before he makes the purchase. All the seal skins of the world go to the London emporium, because nowhere else than in England is the art of preparing them understood. In the British metropolis there are many big factories, employing thousands of workmen, devoted to this industry.—Washington Star.

Sea Sickness.

A new theory of sea sickness has been recently offered by M. Rochet. Accepting the view that the symptoms are those of cerebral anemia, he accounts for this anemia by the disorder brought into muscular contractions through not being used to such sudden movements as those of vessels. M. Rochet's advice is not to look to anesthetics, soothing drugs, &c., for relief, but rather to muscular excitants, and, above all, to seek in involuntary movements a compensation for the reflex movements which are not proffered. He recommends strychnine, veratrine, ergot of rye, and drinks charged with carbonic acid.—Philadelphia Press.

A Curiosity in Accidents.

The possible danger in the wearing of cheap combs and bracelets made of celluloid was most curiously illustrated in Paris. A young girl sat down before the fire to study her lessons. She had on what is called a "crop comb." As she leaned forward, the comb became heated, and burst into flame. The girl's hair was partly burned off, and for a long time afterward no hair would grow, as the skin of the head was much injured. Celluloid must be at 180 degrees Fahrenheit before it will burn, consequently the danger is not very great, as few people would be foolish enough to heat their heads to within thirty-two degrees of the boiling point.—The Ledger.

GRIEFS OF MOTHERS.

The Hard Lot Which Nature Has Assigned to Women.

In Dress-Parade from the cradle to the Grave, She Has a Trying Time No Matter How You Look At It.

If a man has ten minutes in which to keep an appointment he can jump into his clothes anyhow, run after a car, get there on time and never turn a hair. A woman's hooks won't hook, her buttons won't button, she loses one glove, her hair came out of crimp and she can't even swear at the conductor, says the St. Louis Star-Sayings, who wouldn't pull the ball-rope till after she had walked a quarter of a block and partly dislocated her arm that brandished her umbrella. She is fifteen minutes late, and the men all speak maledictions under their breath at the woman who "never can be on time," while the fellow who took a fancy to her on a former occasion discovers that she's a guy with her face flushed and her collar awry, and never looks at her again.

When things go wrong with a man he can neglect his barber for a day or two and forget the brilliantine for his mustache, and grow black and hollow around the optics, and ten to one he will simply seem in female eyes "so Byronic and interesting, you know." But a woman may have a thousand gnawing devils at her heart strings, and she's obliged to put on just so much poudre de riz, and to pull out the gray hairs on her temple, and pinch the wrinkles out between her eyes all the same, or she's handed over to the world by her hundred most intimate friends as "such a wreck, my dear," and the jury on the case, and even her lawyer, begin to find excuses for the husband.

If a man has weary nerves and a chumping headache, nothing prevents his coming home and tying a towel about his brows like a Turk, and being as grumpy as one the rest of the evening. But a woman in the same case can only look longingly at her odd wrapper, and then go and painfully build up her Psyche knot and an agreeable smile at exactly the right angle, else she will hear that "Hang it! It's enough to drive a fellow to his club to have an untidy wife lying about on a sofa!" and that "the deuce knows why a woman always manages to look pretty before marriage, and never after."

It is generally supposed that if a woman can only sit down and have a good cry that is panacea for all her woes. But when she finds out that the indulgence makes her nose red she gives up that satisfaction along with the others. A man may exhibit fearlessly, upon occasions, a carmine proboscis produced by causes far less confessable, but a wife is pronounced not half a wife and woman if she shrinks from him on that account. In fact, being a woman at all is a snare and a delusion.

It sounds very, very nice, but it's awful. A woman isn't even allowed to grow old in peace. Going the course of all nature is just the worst crime she can commit. If she isn't married, her brothers don't forgive her for it, and if she is married her husband won't.

So there it is; a bore any way you look at it.

Walcott's Story on Tabor.

It is said there was much money spent in the Colorado senatorial campaign. One day a principal of a high school met Tabor in the hall of the legislature. He had in his hand a copy of "Robert Elsmere." He sympathized with Tabor in his critical fight and expressed the hope that he would pull through. He next casually asked the senator what he thought of "Robert Elsmere."

"No good, no good," Tabor replied. "Walcott bought him up three months ago."

Just Talking.

The other night a policeman on Fourth avenue heard a whistle blown as a signal, and running down the next block he saw a man with his head out of a chamber window and asked what was the matter.

"Robbers around," was the reply. "How do you know?"

"One of 'em kicked on the door and threatened my life if I did not let him in."

"That's curious," mused the officer. "I should say it was. There were two of them, and one seemed to be a woman. She said she'd break every bone in my body if I didn't open the door."

"Come here, please!" called a voice from the house next door, and as the officer reached the steps a woman, standing with her head out of the door, continued:

"It is all right, Mr. Officer. My husband came home ten minutes ago and I was just talking to him. There are robbers around.—Detroit Free Press.

There is not a chapter in the history of business more instructive, both to the heart and understanding, than that which records our errors.

Studied conversation is most tedious and defeats its own ends. We want in conversation that the heart should flow out. We cannot every moment pronounce an epigram.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

The end of our life is God. The rule of our life is duty. Noble deeds are held in honor, Thrift is the fuel of magnificence. The best time to think is before you act.

The obstacles of our life are bad passions. Punctuality is one great element of success. There is nothing little to the really great spirit.

The truest joy we have in life is in making others glad. Diligence is a fair fortune and industry a good estate. Great powers are useful only as they are made serviceable.

The better you live the truer will be your obituary notice. The debt of nature is one that a man always pays as he goes. Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself.

No man can have joy to-day who is worrying about to-morrow. It is easier to be virtuous than it is to appear so, and it pays better. A watch that don't keep correct time is worse than no watch at all.

A close mouth calls for few assessments and pays big dividends. Truth in the mind is only knowledge, but in the life it is power. True economy is the child of wisdom and the mother of independence.

In prosperity the prudent man provides resources against adversity. Better unborn than untaught; for ignorance is the root of misfortune. Too much brains is rather a hindrance than a help to a simply business man.

People are more apt to make a shield of their religion than a pruning-hook. The man who has a character that mud will stick to always feels uneasy.

Adversity is a jewel that shines brighter in our neighbor's crown than in our own. If we had no troubles but our real troubles, nearly everybody would be happy.

Nine men out of ten will try to cover up the blind eyes in a horse trade. The more originally you have in yourselves the more you see in other people.

Religion is too often cut as the clothes are—according to the prevailing fashion. The value of a horse depends upon his being well broke, and this applies to men as well.

A man never expresses so much in his face as when he is trying to appear unconscious. Men will wrangle for religion, write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything but live for it.

The chances are that the man who hates himself has studied himself pretty thoroughly. Ladies seldom hit the nail on the head. They are more apt to hit the nail on the finger.

A mother dreads no memories; those shadows have all melted away in the dawn of baby's smiles. The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew it would never be found out.

He who simply repents of a sin pays only 50 cents on a dollar, while he who forsakes it pays 100.

A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never come. Some men would have better wives if they were not so much afraid to trust them with a little money.

This is only sure, that there is nothing more miserable, and yet more arrogant, than man. Pure gold shines but little. It is only when it is mixed with alloy that it takes on a glitter and brightness.

If women took as much pains to make nests as they do to weave nets, more husbands would remain lovers. There is no way of making a permanent success in this world without giving an honest equivalent for it.

A man never fully realizes the wealth of information he doesn't possess till his first child begins to ask questions. It is easiest to be all things to all men, but it is not honest. Self-respect must be sacrificed every hour of the day.

Help a man out of a hole or crevice and he may forget you when he is out, but he will not fail to call on you the next time he falls in. A few books, well studied and thoroughly digested, nourish the understanding more than hundreds but gurgled in the mouth.

The more a person hunts for the mote in his brother's eye, the plainer he will discover—if he is a man of sense—the beam in his own.

If you are told that you resemble a great man say nothing. It may be that the resemblances will cease the moment that you open your mouth. In all cases of slander currency, whenever the former of the lie is not to be found, the injured parties should have a right to come on any of the indorsers.

You will find the same look of earnestness and thoughtfulness on the face of a street-corner loafer that you will find on the face of a bank President.

There are times in life when the soul, like a half-own climbing vine, hangs hovering tremulously, stretching out its tendrils for something to ascend by, but it takes a little. He who would be courteous must not be in such haste that he cannot be sympathetic, nor so absurd that he cannot be considerate for others.

HORSE NOTES.

The great Eclipse stakes will be run at Morris Park. It is doubtful if Orrin A. Hickok comes East this season.

The Morris Park Club-house represents an outlay of \$3,000. Fully 500 trotting and pacing meetings have been arranged for the season.

Tea Tray is taking salt water bathing for the benefit of his health. The bookmakers got most of the money at the Latonia meeting.

Teuton is not likely to be in condition to start before fall, even if then. Theodore Winters' stable is in quarters at the St. Louis Fair grounds.

Racing at Gloucester has commenced and will continue indefinitely. Tenny was not sent to Buffalo to run one mile against Ten Broeck's time.

During the Gravesend meeting 298 horses were started and sixty jockeys rode. Morris Park is the finest appointed race track in this country, if not in the world.

The pool stakes seem to have governed the \$2500 stake race at Baltimore this year. Jockey McDonald has been engaged to ride for Orville West the remainder of the season.

A half-mile track is being constructed at Augustine Pier, near Port Penn., Del. Ignite, winner of the Clipsetta stakes is the best 2-year-old filly yet shown in the West.

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