THE CRUCIFIXION PLANT OR CALVARY CLOVER.

NOT long since an exchange published an account of a remarkable plant which grows and thrives in various parts of Europe. The writer can attest from personal experience that it has also grown in the flower gardens of Canada.

It is commonly called Calvary Clover, being a trefoil, and said to have been unknown on the earth till the time of Our Lord's Crucifixion. It is also called the Plant of Calvary or the Crown of Thorns. Tradition asserts that the first of the species sprang up under the feet of Pontius Pilate who unjustly condemned our Saviour to be crucified. After Our Lord's death, the weak and vacillating Roman Governor went up the hill of Calvary, and at each step this strange plant appeared to remind him of his crime. So says the old-time legend.

This " crown of throrns " has three round leaves, each being stained in the centre with a crimson spot exactly like a drop of fresh blood. During the day they arrange themselves in such a form that to the most incredulous they resemble a cross. When the flowers appear in their season, each one is startlingly like a crown of thorns. By taking hold of the two ends of the flower, it can be pulled out nearly straight ; but when released, it again curls up in the shape of a crown with jagged, protruding green points.

Many historians, both sa- red and profane, have mentioned this strange member of the floral kingdom. An ancient writer asserts that in his day, a tiny white cross could be seen on each leaf, and that if one looked closely, he could see a figure hanging on it. The form on the central leaf was said to be white, those of the other leaves being clad in black or red. He also declares that when the blossoms appear the figures gradually fade away, the central our remaining longer than the others. The present writer, who was very young when this strange plant grew in her father's garden, does not remember noticing any crosses on the leaves ; she retains however a very vivid recollection of the round, prickly crown and of the