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AQUARIA STUDIES.

PART I.

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The rage for aquaria has somewhat subsided in the fashionable world; still fashion reigns to a certain extent, and exerts an influence even in the zoological world. There has been a *furor* for sponges such as the beautiful Venus' Flower Basket (*Euplectella speciosa*), from the Philippines, for novelties in shells or in insects, and at fashionable prices.

All are not votaries of fashion,—though, in the minds of some, the fickle goddess may fan some latent spark of “Nature's fire” into a flame. While aquaria, in countless numbers, are being sacrificed by the auctioneer, the student of nature watches with intense interest the various productions of animal and vegetable life in his miniature fish-pond, and sees, with admiration, their perfect adaptation to their place in the economy of nature.

A well-known naturalist writes: “The graceful fish, the brilliant reptiles, the shining insects, that people this rare world, whilom hermetically sealed up from our yearning view, are now displayed in the aquarium,—sporting, feeding, slumbering—pursued and pursuing,—leaping into life, and falling into dissolution,—each in its natural haunts, and yet ‘all at home in these crystal palaces.’”

The fresh water aquarium with us, constructed and stocked on scientific principles, should represent faithfully a Canadian pond