

"Angel," cried another voice, and some one came up through the crowd. "Who said anything about angels?"

"Here's somebody says she's one, and I should think she might be, to get here this night. I say, West, don't you think so?"

West had just made his way opposite his child. Their eyes met. Without any sign of recognition, save the kindling of her eyes, she took his hand, and saying, gently, "come," moved to the door. He followed implicitly.

"You're a fool, West, to be led by that child. Let the mixx get home as she came!"

Mr. West was not much intoxicated, and his temper, naturally quick, was fired at once. With sudden impulse, he placed little Angel out of the way, and violently reproved the speaker; who instantly assumed a threatening attitude. But before there was time to retaliate, the door was thrown open, and the tall form of Mr. Howard appeared.

"Mr. West, come with me, if you please," said the policeman, laying a hand on his shoulder. "As for the rest, there are enough of my class outside to take care of you, if any more disturbance is heard." He took the hand of little Angel, and the trio moved away.

Slowly, very slowly, for in the face of the storm none could move quickly, and the step of the little girl grew more and more feeble. Presently her hand fell slackly from the policeman's, and as he lifted her in tender compassion, she fainted in his arms. So they reached home.

Concluded in next No.

VICTORIA REGIA.

British Guiana, lying within the tropics where a constant summer prevails, contains a vigorous vegetation. The grandeur of nature's efforts, displayed there in the vast size, varied forms, and extraordinary rapidity of growth of the vegetable kingdom, strikes the stranger, accustomed only to the less luxuriant aspect of colder climates, with astonishment and delight.

Only a small portion of the country is cultivated, and that portion embraces a strip of land which is separated from the coast by a belt of mangrove and Courida trees. Immediately back of the cultivated portion, and extending to the base of the

mountains, lie dense forests, and well watered savannas. In these primitive forest scenes, gigantic trees raise their lofty crowns to a height unknown in our northern latitudes. Clusters of palm trees, the most grand and beautiful of all the vegetable forms, rise majestically above the surrounding vegetation, waving pinion-like leaves in the soft breezes that play among their branches.

Such is the profuseness of vegetation here, that nature, as if not satisfied with the soil allotted to her, decorates with parasites the trunks and limbs of trees, and even the rocks and stones beneath them. The parasites, which interlace the branches and trunks of the trees, are called *Lianes*, or "bush ropes," and in many cases, after surmounting the highest limbs, descend to the ground and take root again.

The forests of Guiana are capable of affording supplies of timber unsurpassed in quality and durability for building purposes, or in beauty for household furniture or fancy work. Birds of brightest plumage, insects of remarkable instincts, and reptiles of the most dreaded natures, people the otherwise silent solitudes of these vast domains in inexhaustible variety. Yet it is emphatically a vegetable realm; even the surface of the water is covered with a carpet of plants, interspersed by magnificent flowers. The splendid *Victoria Regia*, the most beautiful specimen of the Flora found in the western hemisphere, grows upon the surface of the lakes and rivers here, in great profusion. In a work, entitled "Brazil and the Brazilians," the following graphic description is given of this flower.

"Of all the nymphææ, the largest, the richest, and the most beautiful, is the marvellous plant which has been dedicated to the Queen of England. It inhabits the tranquil waters of the shallow lakes formed by the widening of rivers. Its leaves measure from fifteen to eighteen feet in circumference; their upper part is of a dark, glossy green, while the under portion is of a crimson red, furnished with large, salient veins, which are cellular and full of air, and have the stem covered with elastic prickles. The flowers lift themselves about six inches above the water, and, when full-blown, have a circumference of from three to four feet. The petals, unfold toward evening; their

color, at first of the purest white, passes, in twenty-four hours, through successive hues, from a tender rose tinge to a bright red. During the first day of their bloom, they exhale a delightful fragrance, and at the end of the third day, the flower fades away and replunges beneath the water, there to ripen its seeds."

Naturalists and travelers become enthusiastic in their admiration, when they behold this plant for the first time. In 1845, an English traveler, Mr. Bridges, while following the banks of a river, came to a lake whose surface abounded with this beautiful flower. He was so carried away by his admiration of them, that he was about to plunge into the water for the purpose of gathering some, when he was prevented by his Indian guide, who pointed to the alligators lazily reposing upon the surface near. But the traveler was not to be thus easily baffled; such was his ardor that he ran a long distance to a village, procured a canoe and returned to the lake which contained the objects of his ambition. So enormous were the leaves, that only two of them could be placed on the canoe at once, and he was obliged to make several trips to complete a satisfactory harvest.

This wonderful flower was first discovered twenty six years ago, in the river Berbice, British Guiana, by Sir Robert H. Schomburgk, of England, on the first day of January, 1837. He named it, in honor of Queen Victoria, *Victoria Regia*.

SAGACITY OF THE ELEPHANT.

A few days before my arrival at Epon, a troop of Elephants came down, one dark and rainy night, close to the outskirts of the village. The missionaries heard them bellowing and making an extraordinary noise for a long time, at the upper end of the orchard; but knowing well how dangerous it is to encounter these animals in the night, they kept close within their houses till daybreak. Next morning, on examining the spot where they had heard the elephants, they discovered the cause of all this uproar. There was at this spot a trench, about five or six feet in width and twelve in depth, which the industrious missionaries had cut through the bank of the river, on purpose to lead out the water to irrigate some part of their garden ground, and to drive a corn mill. Into this trench, which