

Domestic and Miscellaneous.

FLOWER-TEACHINGS.

BY MRS. S. C. B. THOMPSON.

'Tis not lost time to steal from graver things.
 Awhile away, and muse among the flowers!
 Is there not wrought, in every tiny leaf,
 Undying truth for the reflective mind?
 Are they not eloquent tho' void of speech—
 Suggestive to the soul of higher things,
 More lofty uses, and more noble ends
 Than earth's best and highest? Methinks they are.
 The heart is led to Him who bade them spring
 From nothingness to glorious life—who gave
 To each its own sweet time to bud and bloom—
 Its own kind mission to fulfil on earth—
 Its time to fade and die.

There is a voice

That speaketh to the inner ear sweet words
 Of cheering hope, and lowly trust that He
 Who bade them spring from earth, and clothed each leaf
 With grace and beauty rare—hath the same power
 To raise us from the dust to live again.

Heart-comforters are ye, bright flowers, and much
 I love ye for your gentle ministry,
 And for the ample harvest of sweet thoughts
 My soul hath garnered in for after use.
 When sad from Life's o'erburdening ills, my heart
 Doth strength and courage gain from flowers that dare
 The angry storm, and still, with smiling brow,
 Look up through tears to Heaven; thus would I learn
 To look through clouds or sorrow up to God,
 And gain from fading leaf and drooping flower
 The wisdom of a better love than marks
 The schools of men—that wisdom which, heart-learn'd,
 Dims not the eye and leaves upon the brow
 No marks of age. Ah, would that we were prompt
 To learn the lessons they are prone to teach.

Fair Haven, Conn.

—Am. Met. Mag.

CARPETS.

But, say the ladies, how can we do without a carpet?
 and then, too, they are so warm and comfortable!

Of course the ladies must be gratified; far be it from me to desire to deprive them of a single indulgence. but I must be permitted to demur to the charge that there is vulgarity in the absence of carpets. They are fashionable, I admit, but that is their sole recommendation. I have not the least doubt in my own mind, that to the health of persons using them, they are the most destructive thing possible, and that the sins of those who persist in their use, will be visited upon their children to the third and fourth generations. Our ancestors were vulgar in their notions, in their language, dress and manner of living, according to our ideas, in the middle of the nineteenth century, but where are the robustness, vigor, health and energy of character which distinguished those of the sixteenth century? This period of early dinners, wainscotted houses and polished floors? Now I insist upon it, that a polished floor, or a floor covered with a well kept oil cloth, albeit the former may be somewhat more expensive, so far from being vulgar, would in my humble opinion be the very reverse. If a general or common use of an article of furniture be the test of vulgarity, then I submit that a carpet comes pre-eminently within the category, (for scarcely a house can be found which cannot boast of its carpet,) and ought, according

to such reasoning, to be repudiated on that account alone!

Now as to the assertion that a carpet adds warmth to a room, I must again be at issue with the ladies. It does not, and here are my reasons for the assertion. In the first place, since carpets have been in use by every body, builders never even pretend to season their flooring; before even the plastering of the house becomes dry, the rooms are covered with carpets. The consequence of this is that in less than a twelve month, the floors become open as sieves. If they are washed two or three times a year this process is obliged to be done with the least possible quantity of water, lest the ceiling of the lower rooms be spoiled, so that the timber becomes perfectly dry and shrunken, and your carpet is almost the only defence left against the constant draught of cold air always circulating between the joists.

I cannot perhaps more satisfactorily rebut the assertion that a carpet adds warmth to a room, than by relating, as shortly as possible, an alteration which occurred some years ago, and to which I was a witness. In a stage coach, between Toronto and this place, and between two gentlemen, disputing as to which side of the Buffalo robe, which they shared between them, was the warmest next the person. The one contended stoutly in favour of the fur side, and by various arguments, but chiefly by the sense of touch or feeling, converted nearly all the passengers to his way of thinking; and after some time, with perhaps less deference than exactly became a person so much the junior of the gentleman who shared the robe with him, and who had wrapped it around with the flesh side next him, deliberately twisted his half of the "Buffalo" with the fur side inward.—This posture of affairs, of course,—the feet of both being left exposed, in a cold and boisterous December day, could not last. The elder gentleman, after a little, turned toward his companion, and after administering a severe but gentlemanly rebuke for the liberty the young man had taken, asked him whether, if the fur side of the robe next the person were the warmest, he did not think the animal who furnished it would have so worn it! The gentleman rightly judging that the animal knew best how to wear his own hide! This ridiculous, though perfectly philosophical argument, after some further conversation among the passengers generally, not only restored the covering to the old gentleman's feet, but immediately created a revolution amongst all the robes in the vehicle, and a hearty laugh at the youngster's expense.

Now if the carpet could be placed underneath and against the floor, I admit that a good deal of cold might be excluded; but upon the top of the floor, like the fur side of the "Buffalo," the ingress of the cold air by capillary attraction of the carpet, would be much facilitated instead of being prevented.—*Ruttan on Ventilation.*

THE BAGNALL FAMILY.—The late Mr. John Bagnall, sen., was originally a persevering, industrious working collier—dependent for the support of himself and family upon the earnings obtained from such a source. Endowed by nature with good qualifications, and possessing a marked determination of character, he was soon enabled to resign his post of "operative miner" for one of a more important nature—viz., that of mineral surveyor; in which capacity he highly distinguished himself. By the exercise of steady perseverance, foresight, and economy, he was enabled shortly after this, in conjunction with a brother who still survives him, to enter into business. A colliery was taken on royalty, which then offered itself—the management of which devolved more immediately upon himself. Here it was more especially that he felt the value of his practical mining knowledge. The management was conducted upon