

ance afforded by water plants, the purpose of vegetation is to decompose the carbonic acid gas thrown off by animals, the carbon being absorbed into the substance of plants, and the oxygen set free for animal life. Even a growth of *confervæ*, unsightly as it is, is conducive to this. In a large Aquarium, a lily may be introduced, planted in a shell or small pot, hidden by weeds, but any plant that grows above the water is apt to aid any creeping animal to effect his escape. The whorled millfoil is one of the best plants for general use as it prefers still water, and I have succeeded, by inserting it late in the fall, in keeping it through the winter in sufficient quantity to answer all purposes. The goldfish and others of the Carp family, nibble at it, and it is probably as essential to their welfare as vegetables are to man. *Valisneria* is a clean, sightly plant and answers well as an air provider, besides being one of the few plants which afford a microscopic view of the circulation of the sap in the leaves.

There is a pleasure in connection with keeping an Aquarium, that to a lover of Nature, adds materially to the charm that attends the observation of its inmates, and that is the rambles made to collect various specimens of aquatic life. The keen lookout for water snails amongst the vegetable growth at the bottom or on the surface of some stagnant pool, and the eagerness to get the little scoop net over one, perhaps just out of reach, affords a pleasure, equal to, if not surpassing that felt by the sportsman beating the bush for game, or the fisherman eagerly watching his bait. The health-giving stroll along the bank of some tiny streamlet, on the lookout for minnows or larvae or any of the varied inmates of its waters, is far different from the monotonous constitutional, along the dusty highway, of the man who has never read a page out of Nature's book of life. The most important principle, perhaps, in life, is to have a pursuit, a useful one if possible, and at all events an innocent one. The scenes you enjoy, the contemplation to which they lead and the exercise attendant on specimen collecting are salutary to the body as they are to the mind. I always find a peculiar effect in such outings; they carry me back to early times and feelings, and create afresh the hopes and happiness of youthful days. Could we all recover anything like that freshness of mind possessed in youth, which, like the dew of morning covered all objects, and in which they