

THE GREAT WARRIOR.

I am a warrior stout and strong ;
I've fought the cold world hard and long—
I've fought it for a crust of bread,
And for a place to lay my head ;
I've fought it for my name and pride,
Back to the wall with both hands tied ;
I've felt its foot upon my brain,
And struggled, and got up again !
And so I will, if so I must,
Until this dust returns to dust.
Meanwhile the battle rages on,
Let me die fighting, and begone !

CLIMBERS AND THEIR USES.

Climbers are nature's drapery. They venerate the most attractive, natural pictures. Many more plants can grow upon a certain piece of ground if a part of them are climbers, than if all were stiff-stemmed. Hence lies nature's purpose in creating the climber. Utility here, as elsewhere, is apparently the first object. But the useful has been made the beautiful. Utility is adorned. Nature always adorns her most practical ideas. Here is a suggestion to the farmer.

For the purposes of study the botanist divides climbers into twiners, tendril climbers and scramblers. The cultivator makes the same division when he provides supports for his plants.

The first and most important use of climbers is to furnish a cover for outhouses and unsightly objects. Here we commonly prefer the tendril climbers and the scramblers. We also desire plants of loose habit, for we must disguise as much as possible the shape of the object we wish to conceal. For covering high objects

in this nature, I know of no plant so good as the hop. The luxuriance of its growth, the pleasing cleanliness of its foliage, the careless but still attractive style of growth, and the fragrant balls, all combine to render the plant valuable for ornamental purposes. I should prefer it to any other plant for covering a rear porch. I like the common things of life ; they are not generally appreciated. Many people never enjoy beautiful things, because they are looking too far away for them.

My next choice among woody climbers for covering large objects, is the Virginia creeper, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*. Its autumn coloring is attractive, although often too dull and monotonous for the highest effect. For this reason some other woody climber should be planted with it. The best I know, is the common bitter-sweet, or wax-work, whose foliage of green and yellow contrasts pleas-

antly with the heavier colors of the Virginia creeper. But while the creeper is a tendril climber and readily ascends a wall, the bitter-sweet is a climber, and must be provided with some support. This bitter-sweet is the plant which so often constricts the trunks of saplings. The fruit of the bitter-sweet, light colored and crimson arilled, clings to the plant after the leaves fall, and makes an attractive display. The habit of the plant is not always good, however, and I should plant it in company with other climbers, or among a continuous mass of foliage.

The common wild clematis, or virgin's bower, which climbs over low shrubs and fences, is always desirable for screening low objects. An especially desirable feature is the lateness of its flowering. It is not until August that its small, chaste flowers, borne in great profusion, delight the copse and fence-row. The flowers are of two sorts, some male or sterile, and others female or fertile. The fertile flowers give place to

ivy, commonly but correctly known in trade catalogues as *Ampelopsis Veitchii*. It is much superior to our native *Ampelopsis* or Virginia creeper for this purpose, from the fact that its tendrils are much shorter, causing it to cling tighter to the wall. It is not loosened by winds, and makes a more compact and continuous covering. It commonly needs some protection for the first two or three years. Its autumn color is a rich bronze.

For plants to grow on rocks or trellises, the best is the prairie rose. Some of the exotic clematises are very gaudy and in every way desirable. They are to be encouraged on account of their late blooming. Some of the huncysuckles will always be favorites for this purpose.

For small trim plants in the flower garden or as single ornamental objects, some of the more delicate herbaceous climbers are most desirable ; for this purpose the plants should be grown in masses. This year I planted four compact arbor vitas, four feet high, in a

little plot 30 feet from my window, and I then scattered a few seeds of morning-glories among them. The twiners soon covered the little trees with floral wreaths, and the effect was delightful. I shall keep the trees trimmed back, and repeat the operation in years to come. Next year I shall add a few vines of the delicate little *Adlumia* to my group. Why do we not appreciate this delicate plant more? I have been charmed to see it growing wild in the brushy thickets in western Michigan, covering the little undershrubs with festoons of diacentra-like flowers. It demands a cool and somewhat protected situation.

I have been very much pleased this year with the exotic heart-seed or *Cardiospermum*, known to the tender-hearted as love-in-a-puff, also balloon vine. I simply stuck the seeds in the ground one morning in May, and hurried away to look after more practical beets and cabbages. I gave the plants no attention, but they made a luxuriant growth and produced their great, inflated fruits in abundance. It is a delicate herb, the heart-seed, and surely worthy a place in the garden. I kept one plant cut back, and gave it no support, and it made a straggling but attractive heap of green.

The ground-nut or *Apios*, is a curious, bean-like vine which grows abundantly in our thickets, producing peculiar clusters of chocolate-brown, pea-like flowers in July. I am going to try it in my garden. This plant also gives promise of affording a profitable edible tuber.

The wild yam, *Dioscorea*, grows in many



A CAMP SCENE IN MUSKOKA.

curious balls of feathery wool, whence the name "Old-man vine" in some localities.

If an herbaceous climber is desired for a screen, select the common wild cucumber of our river banks; the plant known to botanists as wild balsam apple or *Echinocystis*. This has now become so common in cultivation as to need no description.

For tropical effect, none of our hardy climbers are so desirable as the Dutchman's pipe, *Aristolochia siphon*. Its great, heavy leaves are often a foot or more across. It is a luxuriant grower, a woody perennial, and in most places hardy. This is very desirable for training over one end of a front or side porch. It is the best of all our climbers for affording shade. The plant grows wild in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, but is grown by all nurserymen.

For covering the side of a dwelling, nothing is so desirable as the so-called Japanese