

## Sign of the Maple

(Continued from page 17.)

college professor who was an authority on fish, but did not know his students very well by name. On one occasion he excused himself for this by saying that "whenever he remembered the name of a student, he forgot the name of a fish."

So with me. Whenever I try to remember how many varieties there are of any particular plant, I invariably forget something important regarding it.

Under the water there are gardens of another order. When paddling over the lagoons on a still day, feathery, jade-green plants starred with pink and faint yellow, brush along the bottom of the canoe; and these are all gemmed and jewelled and strung about with drops of water that seem turned to strings of pearls and opals. Yet these are only the weeds that the big weed-cutter is kept at such great expense to exterminate. Alas! that such lovely things should perish so.

All the wild gardens are beautiful with a strange and elusive beauty. The perfume of them is impossible to secure, for it refuses to be imprisoned in crystal. When we catch the scent of the woods on the wind, old indefinite sensations and primeval longings stir restlessly at the hearts of the most worldly-wise of us. Some essence these untouched, untended plants and trees extract from the earth, that growing things in cultivated gardens do not reach at all. And it touches a responsive sense within us that strangely enough has not been quite killed out by all our modern artificial modes of life.

So I think God's gardens will always be the best beloved.

And of the wild flowers—most of us with Will Shakespeare—are fondest of those that

"Do paint the meadows with delight."

### Recent Events

**H**ISTORY repeats itself, but not in every instance. George Washington performed a deed with a certain little hatchet and won his country's lasting adulation. Mary Leigh did one with a no doubt similar axe and won five years for herself in a British cell. Of course, the aims were different. Mary Leigh was found guilty of wounding one, Mr. Redmond, with a weapon aimed at the Premier, whose name is not Mr. Redmond. Which goes to prove that a woman is still a woman "for a' that"—"a' that" in the case being militant suffragitis. Mr. Asquith, the Premier so recently wounded by proxy, is fixing his thoughts on the maple-leaf as a possible leaf of healing—is thinking of seeking this country with Winston Churchill. But the enemy is beforehand. For one of the gentle sisterhood, just out from Holloway jail, has preceded my gentleman to the city of Montreal, the which she will make the headquarters for militant operations—perhaps even surgical ones, a la hatchet.

**S**OME warp—a historical warp at that—effects on the part of the average popular mind an interest, almost delight, in the dwarfed and freakish. And the same taste which misshapes vegetation in China, and which mutilated children in England as late even as the reign of James I., is being catered to in Edmonton just now by that Lilliputian attraction at the present exhibition, "Princess Victoria," smallest woman alive. This wee vaudeville performer resembles a two-foot doll, is perfectly formed, dresses with taste and includes in her quite varied list of accomplishments, the playing of musical instruments and singing.

**W**E hate reciprocity, as every patriot should, but we do love babies—even United States ones. And, therefore, mention is made of the coming of that boy heir, fatherless before born, of the name of Astor. Mrs. Madeleine Astor's child will inherit \$3,000,000. And it must have been a very valiant stork at which undertook him, for that bird, at least the specimen just added to the London Zoo, is reputed to be the bashfullest bird created. The fellow (and we fulest bird created. The fellow (and we refer still to the stork, not the baby), "has an enormous head and a huge bill

filled with a strong membrane"—of all of which it had, this trip, every need.

**A**N apartment house may be, or an up-to-date establishment of smart lady barbers—anyway, something of necessity sacreligious, is destined sooner or later to take the place of "the angel factory," so-called by students, otherwise, Bishop Strachan School, on College Street, Toronto. For the present site has been sold, for \$400,000, to some unknown buyer—unknown, that is, except to Solicitor Gwynne. And claims may blush who learn of the secrecy of him.

**A**N Englishwoman of fine mind and high scholastic attainment is Miss Alice Taylor, who has recently been engaged by Dr. Hare, assisted by Mr. James L. Hughes, as new Lady Principal for the Ontario Ladies' College, at Whitby.

**Y**OU expect it of a woman with a hyphen in her name that when she attempts to do a thing, she does it. And expectations are, for once, fulfilled in the case of Mrs. Genieve Lipsett-Skinner, the Winnipeg woman, just returned from her campaign in immigration interests. This able lecturer has toured Great Britain and Ireland, and her influence will, no doubt, soon be strongly felt in a better class of folk who will see this country.

**W**HATEVER may be the limitations of the Ethiopian's skin, the Eskimo's, it seems, has the power of changing. A blonde race, discovered in the Mackenzie River region, threatens to rather complicate that vexed Western question of white girl labour in Oriental concerns. Our sympathy is extended to that official in Saskatchewan who is puzzling out just what may be a white woman.

### Naval Necessities

(From Toronto Daily Star.)

**T**HE official report of Winston Churchill's speech on the navy estimates shows that he emphasized the point that safety can be obtained only by cool, steady, methodical preparation extending over a number of years. Naval preparations are slow. Small ships require eighteen to twenty months to build; large ships two, three, sometimes four years; docks more than four years. It takes two or three years to train a seaman, much longer to train an artificer, six or seven years to prepare an officer. The efficiency which comes from a harmonious combination of these elements is a plant of slow growth.

Therefore, he says, it is no use flinging money about on the impulse of the moment. The strain will be long and slow, and nothing is to be gained by erratic, impulsive action. "We ought to learn from our German neighbours, whose policy marches unswervingly toward the goal across the lifetime of a whole generation."

Elsewhere in the debate reference was made to the fact that the British Government was not building as many ships as its mechanical facilities would allow, and that it was not considered wise to make provision for building too far in advance. If this is done, said Mr. Asquith, "You may find you are left with ships which are obsolete, out-of-date, and which are not really fit for the growing requirements and exigencies of naval warfare, in which case you will have lost your money and will have to spend it over again in having to provide substitutes."

A further argument against the alarmists is the fact that the British Government is not borrowing money to build ships, as Germany is doing, but is simply using part of the surplus revenue for that purpose.

From all this it does not appear what is the emergency which Canada is to be asked to help to meet. The debate gives the impression not of any immediate danger, but of a heavy task extending over a long period of time, and requiring steady and methodical work. Mr. Churchill was very vague and reticent about the part to be played by Canada. Doubtless he left the task of making fuller explanations to Mr. Borden, as was quite proper, and until Mr. Borden makes his explanations it is not reasonable to ask that his proposals be endorsed.

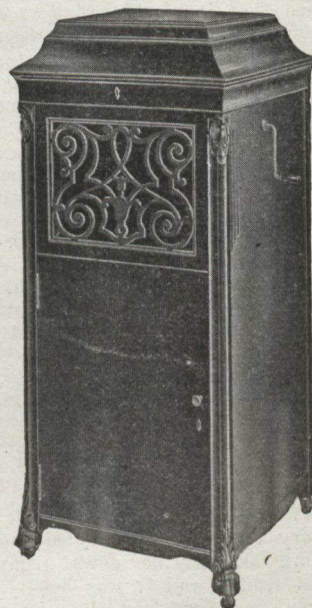
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