

**I** was always slow of apprehension and by no means mentally alert, but from the very dawn of consciousness I saw the necessity for a firm creed and for a personal cosmogony; but it should be an adjustable, expansive theory. I think men fall through being unbelivers.—[From a Letter.]

**A**s an instance of the imitative principle in vegetable growth, our attention was lately arrested by a form of parasitical development of, I think, the poison ivy "*Rhus toxicodendron*." The plant had shed its leaves, therefore we could not take time to identify, but the general outline and form and color of the shrub, as it clung in hideous snake-like contortions of a venomous purple tint, to the tall trunk of a swamp ash-tree, suggested the abhorrent functions and malignancy of an enormous "*Scolopendra*." The innumerable radiating tendrils typified and suggested the myriad feet of the detested centipede! And the greyish-white bark of the victimized ash-tree afforded a background that set off the outline and complexion of the vampire-like encumbrance with wonderful force and perplexity.—[Journal of Hamilton Association, 1892.]