

## LITTLE MISS BRIER.

Little Miss Brier came out of the ground ;  
She put out her thorns and scratched everything round.

"I'll just try," said she ;

"How bad I can be ;

At pricking and scratching there's few can match me."

Little Miss Brier was handsome and bright,  
Her leaves were dark green and her flowers were pure  
white ;

But all who came nigh her,

Were so worried by her,

They'd go out of their way to keep clear of the Brier.

Little Miss Brier was looking one day

At her neighbor, the Violet, just over the way ;

"I wonder," said she,

"That no one pets me,

While all seem so glad little Violet to see."

A sober old Linnet, what sat on a tree,

Heard the speech of the Brier, and thus answered he

"Tis not that she's fair,

For you may compare

In beauty with even Miss Violet there."

"But Violet is always so pleasant and kind,

So gentle in manner, so humble in mind,

E'en the worms at her feet

She would never ill treat.

And to Bird, Bee, and Butterfly always is sweet."

The gardener's wife just then the pathway came down.

And the mischievous Brier caught hold of her gown :

"Oh dear! what a tear!

My gown's spoiled, I declare ;

That troublesome Brier has no business there ;

Here, John dig it up ; throw it into the fire."

And that was the end of the ill-natured Brier.

*In The Little Christian.*

MRS. ANNA BACHE.

## COAL ASHES.

The following extract is from the bulletin of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station ; E. L. Sturtevant, Director.

Oftentimes careful observation may take the place of experiment, and such observations have a special value when the results of the observation have been uniform for a long series of years. The question as to the value and the use of coal ashes has been for a long time an interesting one and is getting to be more and more of a question as the use of coal extends.

One of the most desirable uses for coal ashes is to place around the stems of currant bushes, of quince trees, and the Mountain Ash, in order to check the ravages of the borer. In the garden of Mr. Robert J. Swan, of Geneva, are extraordinarily thrifty currant bushes, to which coal ashes have been applied for many years, and which have not only been free from the borers, but also from the attack of the currant worm. There are also quince trees of equal thriftiness, which have been under like treatment, and in the

lawn are a number of Mountain Ashes, some of which have been treated with coal ashes and the others have not, and the difference in vigor is extremely well marked in favor of those to which coal ashes have been applied. The ashes for this purpose are heaped up about the stem to a height perhaps of six to eight inches and extending about two feet from the trunk. The explanation offered is, that the ashes afford mechanical protection and also are of advantage as a mulch in maintaining moisture and cool temperature for the soil.

Coal ashes may also be found desirable for use in anchoring heavy clay soils, the intermixture preventing to some extent the baking which is so apt to occur after rains in early summer. The chemical value of coal ashes where wood kindlings have not been used is of very little account, and we can say that there is no doubt but, that field experiments in general, with coal ashes, have proved quite conclusively their uselessness. In analyses of coal ashes from the Pennsylvania white-ash coal, examined by Prof. Storer, 0.05 per cent. of phosphoric acid and 1.47 per cent. of potash was found, but these quantities, as Prof. Storer well says, are inferior to what would have been found in good pit sand from eastern Massachusetts.

SAVOY CABBAGE.—The Savoy cabbages are almost as tender as the cauliflower, have a distinct flavor, and a marrowy consistence of their own, which some prefer to cauliflower. These being as easily raised as the common cabbage, are within the reach of all. Those who have cultivated Savoy cabbages need no advice ; to those who have not, we say, by all means try the Savoys. The English authors of works on gardening regard them as so different that they class them by themselves, under Savoys, and not among the cabbages. When we first knew them there was but one kind, "the Savoy," now there are a dozen or more Savoys, including early and late kinds. Perhaps the "Improved American Savoy" will be best for those who try Savoys for the first time. Afterwards they will be glad to test the early and late kinds. The seeds are to be sown and the plants treated exactly as those of the ordinary cabbages.—*American Agriculturist.*