

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

### A Floral Emblem for New Brunswick.

The REVIEW for March makes the suggestion that the Twin-flower (*Linnaea borealis*) be adopted as the floral emblem of New Brunswick, and the editor asks me to express an opinion upon the subject.

Certainly, floral emblems and like matters, while from some points of view trivial, from others are not. As people advance in culture they care more for such things, which, with literature and art, help to refine their sentiments towards nature, man, and their native land. All such matters must have a special interest to everyone concerned with education, for the æsthetic, like the moral and the religious nature, is a powerful potential factor in the development of character, which is the first and greatest aim of education. The selection of a floral emblem, therefore, may well engage our attention, even though to secure its adoption may seem a matter of much difficulty. Great emblems, like great songs, spring from the great events which profoundly move a people, or else they grow naturally from the associations of a stirring past. But if it be true that a people is happy which has no annals, then the emblems of a happy people must be found some other way, and we are free to try to secure them by deliberate choice, and even, perhaps, to attempt to fix them by statute.

New Brunswick's emblem must, first of all, belong to the forest, for she is, above all, a forest country. By the forest has her history been profoundly influenced; from the forest has her wealth in the past largely come, as it will in the future if her rulers be but wise; and under the shade of her forests will yet develop and flourish her literature and her art. It is for this reason the proposal has been made to adopt a tree as the emblem of the province, her most abundant and valuable forest tree, the stately red spruce; \* but we can also use the flower, and perhaps better than the tree. It should be, then, a forest flower, one thoroughly at home in New Brunswick, and distributed through its whole extent. It should be so marked in character and distinctive in appearance as to be readily recognized by all without liability to confusion with other related sorts. It must conventionalize well for artistic use, and should be pleasing in color and fragrant in odor. Certainly the lovely Twin-flower (called by some the Fairy Thimble) not only meets these requirements better than any other, but meets them all extremely well. It is a running evergreen vine, and occurs everywhere abundantly in moist shaded woods, where it particularly delights to cover fallen moss-covered logs, while its beautiful pink flowers scent the air with the sweetest

odor of the northern woods. It may seem a drawback that the plant is not particularly characteristic of America, for it occurs in Northern Europe and Asia; but is not New Brunswick herself, thoroughly of the new world as she is, linked by the strongest of natural ties to the old?

The only possible competitors of the Twin-flower for this honor that I can find in our lists of plants are the Mayflower, the Cardinal Flower and the Canada Lily. But the first belongs to Nova Scotia, and is more characteristic of that province than of New Brunswick; the second is but an immigrant from the southwest, and is confined to our western streams; while the third is at home in open fields and not in the shaded forest.

Let us adopt the *Linnaea*, the beautiful, modest, pure, fragrant, forest-loving, New Brunswick-loving Twin-flower, for our emblem.

W. F. GANONG.

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### Macdonald Manual Training School, Truro.

The Manual Training School for Nova Scotia, opened in Truro by the munificent scheme of Sir Wm. Macdonald and Prof. Robertson, offers a vacation course of manual training in wood-work to teachers desirous of becoming acquainted with this latest development of our educational system. The course will commence on Wednesday, July 10th, and last for four weeks. Short daily lectures on the aims and methods of manual training will be given, but the time will be chiefly devoted to practical drawing and benchwork in connection therewith. The school contains an extensive collection of examples of different systems of manual training; specimens of the various woods, leaves, etc., as used in the work of the school, and a complete library bearing on the subject. The equipment for drawing and benchwork is in the very best and latest style, and everything necessary is provided.

The course is not intended to qualify persons as teachers of the subject; but satisfactory work done during this period will be counted towards the work of the Special Training Course of six months' duration.

There are no fees whatever in connection with the school; and all teachers are eligible for admission. Early application should, however, be made by persons desirous of attending, as it is anticipated that a good number will take advantage of the course. All teachers of the Province of Nova Scotia, taking the full summer course will, with the consent of the trustees of their school sections, be allowed an extra vacation of two weeks. Applications should be addressed to the Director of the Macdonald Fund for Nova Scotia, T. B. Kidner, Truro, N. S., who will be pleased to afford any further information required.

\* Discussed in the New Brunswick Magazine for Jan., 1899.