

### Fire-side Selections.

#### The Price of Truth.

Great truths are dearly bought. The commonest truth,  
Such as men give and take from day to day,  
Comes in the common walks of daily life,  
Blown by the careless wind across our way.

Bought in market at the current price,  
Bred of the jest, the smiles, perchance the bowl;  
It tells no tales of daring or of worth,  
Nor pierces e'en the surface of the soul.

Great truths are greatly won—not formed by chance,  
Nor wafted on the breath of a summer dream;  
But grasped in the great struggle of the soul,  
Hard buffeting with adverse wind and stream.

Not in the general mart, 'mid corn and wine;  
Not in the merchandise of gold and gems;  
Not in the world's gay hall of midnight mirth;  
Nor 'mid the blaze of regal diadems.

But in the day of conflict, fear and grief,  
When the strong hand of God, put forth in might,  
Plows up the subsoil of the stagnant heart,  
And brings the imprisoned truth-seeds to the light.

Wrung from the troubled spirit in hard hours  
Of weakness, solitude, perchance of pain;  
Truth springs like harvest from the well-plowed field,  
And the soul feels it has not wept in vain.

#### Language of Flowers.

(CONCLUDED.)

Lily, of the valley,—Delicacy. Unconscious sweet  
ness.

Linden or Lime,—Conjugal love.

Live Oak,—Liberty.

Locust blossoms,—Elegance.

Locust leaves (green),—Affection beyond the grave.

Magnolia,—Nobility of character.

Mallow,—Mildness.

Malope,—Good nature.

Mandrake,—Horror. Rarity.

Marigold, African,—Cruelty.

Marigold, French,—Jealousy.

Marigold, garden,—Grief. Chagrin.

Marjoram,—Blushes.

Meadow Saffron,—My last days are past.

Marvel of Peru,—Timidity.

Mignonette,—Moral and intellectual worth. Your  
qualities surpass your charms.

Mimulus,—Fun. Jollity.

Mint,—Virtue.

Morning glory,—Bonds.

Moss,—Maternal love.

Motherwort,—Secret love.

Mullein,—Good nature.

Mushroom,—Suspicion.

Musk plant,—Weakness.

Mustard Seed,—Indifference.

Myrtle,—Love.

Myrtle, withered,—Love betrayed.

Nettle,—Cruelty. Slander.

Oak,—Hospitality.

Oak Leaves,—Bravery.

Oak, live,—Liberty.

Oats,—Music.

Pansy,—Thoughts. Remembrance.

Parsley,—Festivity. Entertainment.

Pea, garden,—An appointed meeting.

Pea, sweet,—Departure.

Peach blossom,—Preference. I am your captive.

Peony,—Ostentation.

Pepper,—Your wit is too keen for your friendship.

Peppermint,—Warmth of feeling.

Periwinkle,—Remembrance of early friendship.

Petunia,—Your presence soothes me.

Phlox,—Unanimity. Our souls are one.

Pine,—Hope in adversity. Time will cure. Time  
and philosophy.

Plum tree,—Keep your promises.

Poplar, white,—Time.

Poppy, red,—Evanescence pleasure.

Poppy, variegated,—Beauty without loveliness.

Poppy, white,—Consolation. Forget the past and  
hope for the future.

Portulaca,—Love in a cottage.

Privet,—Prohibition.

Raspberry,—Remorse.

Rosebud, red,—Confession. Thou hast stolen my  
affection.

Rosebud, moss,—Confession of love.

Rosebud, white,—Girlhood.  
Rose, Dog or wild,—Simplicity. Let not this false  
world deceive you.

Rose, red,—Love.

Rose, tea,—Always lovely.

Rose, white,—My heart is free.

Rose white, withered,—Transient impressions.

Rose, yellow,—Jealousy.

Rose, Bay,—Danger. Beware.

Rose Bridal,—Happy love.

Rush,—Docility.

Sage,—Domestic virtues.

Salpiglossis,—Political distinction.

Scabiosa, Mourning Bride,—Unfortunate attach-  
ment.

Scarlet Runner,—Winsome ways.

Sensitive Plant,—Sensitiveness. Timidity.

Snowball,—Age. Thoughts of heaven.

Snowdrop,—Faithfulness. I am no summer friend.

Sorrel, wild,—Wit, ill tempered. He makes a foe  
who makes a jest.

Stock, ten-weeks,—Promptness.

Stock, Common,—Lasting beauty.

Straw, broken,—Rupture of a contract.

Straw, whole,—Union.

Sumach,—Splendid misery.

Sundflower,—Adoration.

Sweet Alyssum,—Worth beyond beauty.

Sweet Basil,—Good wishes.

Sweet Briar,—I wound to heal.

Sweet Pea,—Departure. Must you go.

Sweet William,—Gallantry.

Tare,—Vice.

Thistle, common,—Austerity.

Thistle, Scotch,—Retaliation.

Thyme,—Activity, courage.

Triptilion spinosum,—Be prudent.

Tritoma, Red Hot Poker,—Forewarned is fore-  
armed.

Trumpet flower,—Separation.

Tuberose,—Personal charms.

Tulip, red,—Declaration of love.

Tulip, variegated,—Beautiful eyes.

Tulip, yellow,—Hopeless Love.

Tulip Tree,—Rural happiness.

Turnip,—Charity.

Venus Fly Trap,—Have I caught you at last?

Venus Looking Glass,—Flattery.

Verbena,—Sensibility.

Vernal Grass,—Poor but happy.

Vine Grape,—Intoxication.

Violet, blue,—Faithfulness.

Violet, white,—Retirement. I must be sought to  
be found.

Violet, yellow,—Rural happiness.

Violet, sweet,—Modesty.

Virginia Creeper,—I cling to you both in sunshine  
and shade.

Wall Flower,—Fidelity in adversity.

Walnut,—Stratagem.

Water Lily,—Purity of heart.

Wax Plant,—Susceptibility.

Weigela,—Maiden beauty.

Wheat stalk,—Riches.

Whitlavia,—Constancy.

Whortleberry,—Treachery.

Willow Weeping,—Mourning.

Winter Cherry,—Deception.

Witch Hazel,—A spell.

Wolfspane,—Misanthropy.

Woodbine,—Fraternal love.

Wormwood,—Absence.

Xeranthemum,—Chamomile—Cheerfulness in ad-  
versity.

Yarrow,—To heal a wounded heart.

#### Letters via Pigeon Post.

Photography has a use, and a most important one  
it is: I allude to the pigeon post. During the  
late Franco-Prussian War, if a person desired to  
send a message to a friend in beleaguered Paris,  
from any place outside that city, he had only to  
take his message to the post, pay half a franc a  
word for it, and it goes in this wise tied to the tail  
of a pigeon. The message is first telegraphed to  
M. Steemackers at Tours, then along with a great  
number of similar messages, it is set up in type,  
until a sheet as large as a newspaper is covered  
with them. This is then printed, and the page is  
placed before a camera. A copy of it about two  
inches square, or rather less is then taken upon a  
cullidion film. This, of course, is a negative,  
with the letters transparent upon a black ground.  
When reversed, with the back of the plate to the  
eye, it can be read perfectly under a powerful  
magnifier. The film is then transferred from the  
glass, coiled up neatly, and enclosed in a very

small quill. This is tied securely to one of the  
feathers of the tail of the carrier pigeon, and the  
bird is let loose to find its way to its home in Paris.  
There the messages upon the cullidion film are  
read under a microscope, and then enclosed by letter  
to the addresses within the city which they respect-  
ively bear. The pigeons leave the city again along  
with aeronauts in the car of a balloon. But with-  
out photography how could this ingenious system be  
carried out?

#### Genius and Labor.

Alex. Hamilton once said to an intimate friend:—  
"Mer give me some credit for genius. All the  
genius I have lies just in this, when I have a sub-  
ject in hand, I study it profoundly. Day and  
night it is before me; I explore it in all its bearings.  
My mind becomes pervaded with it. Then the ef-  
fort which I make the people are pleased to call  
the fruit of genius. It is the fruit of labor and  
thought."

Mr. Webster once replied to a gentleman who  
pressed him to speak on a subject of great impor-  
tance:—"The subject interests me deeply, but I  
have no time to master the subject so as to do it  
justice."

"But, Mr. Webster, a few words from you would  
do much to awaken public attention to it."

"If there be as much weight in my words as you  
represent it is because I do not allow myself to  
speak on any subject until my mind is imbued  
with it."

Demosthenes was once urged to speak on a great  
and sudden emergency "I am not prepared," said  
he and absolutely refused.

The law of labor is equally binding on genius and  
mediocrity.

#### Protect Your Eyesight.

Milton's blindness was the result of overwork  
and dyspepsia. One of the most eminent divines,  
having for some time been compelled to forego the  
pleasure of reading, spent thousands of dollars  
in value, and lost years of time in consequence of  
getting up several hours before sunrise and study-  
ing by an artificial light. His eyes never got  
well.

Multitudes of men and women have made their  
eyes weak for life by the too free use of the eye  
sight, reading small print and doing fine sewing.  
In view of these things, it is well to observe the  
following rules in the use of the eyes:

Avoid all sudden changes between light and  
darkness.

Never read by twilight on a cloudy day.

Never sleep so that, on waking, the eyes shall  
open on the light of the window.

Do not use the eyesight by light so scant that it  
requires an effort to discriminate.

Never read or sew directly in front of the light  
of the window or door.

It is best to have light fall from above, obliquely  
over the left shoulder.

Too much light creates a glare, and pains and  
confuses the sight. The moment you are sensible  
of an effort to distinguish, that moment stop and  
talk, walk or ride.

As the sky is blue and earth green it would seem  
that the ceiling should be a bluish tinge, the carpet  
green and the walls of some mellow tint.

The moment you are instinctively prompted to  
rub the eyes, that moment cease using them.

If the eyelids are glued together on waking up,  
do not forcibly open them, but apply the saliva  
with the finger, and then wash your eyes and face  
with warm water.

HABIT.—"I trust everything under God," said  
Lord Broughman, "to habit, upon which, in  
all ages, the lawgiver as well as the schoolmaster,  
has mainly placed his reliance; habit, which makes  
everything easy, and casts all difficulties upon the  
deviation from a wonted course. Make sobriety a  
habit, and intemperance will be hateful; make  
prudence a habit, and reckless profligacy will be  
as contrary to the nature of a child as to any of  
your lordships. Give a child the habit of sacredly  
regarding the truth, of carefully respecting the  
property of others, of scrupulously abstaining from  
all acts of improvidence which can involve him in  
distress, and he will just as likely think of rushing  
into an element in which he cannot breathe, as of  
lying, cheating, or of stealing."

Some one has beautifully said:—"The water  
that flows from a spring does not congeal in winter,  
and those sentiments which flow from the heart  
cannot be frozen by adversity."

DEAR UNO

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