

IN SIGHT OF THE DECEW FALLS.

One of the Most Charming and Least
Known of nature's Beauties.

Strange though it may seem, although there is almost at our door one of the most charming natural beauties in Canada, yet comparatively, but very few outside, and even few in and around our city have ever seen DeCew Falls. This may possibly be accounted for by proximity to the Niagara, but it is a moot question with lovers of the sublime and beautiful whether the modest series of falls embowered in the deep and romantic glen of DeCew does not, after all, outrival their great brothers in truly natural scenery. Leaving St. Catharines any of these fine mornings in the "month of leaves" or latter May, the pedestrian, after a brisk walk of some three miles, most of which is passed over a road as level as a bowling green, and a country literally blooming like a rose, with a background of mountain, wood and greensward, arrives at the corners known as Reynolds' Mill. There the view is very fine, the great gorge which appears like a rift in the mountain is dimly seen through the heavy hovering of maples, hickorys, elms, pines, and sycamores, which, springing from the virgin soil on either bank of the river, untwine their towering tops so as to almost shut out the sunlight. A short distance along this, the Pelham road, brings us to a turn, when the visitor descends a steep hill, crosses the bridge over the western branch of the Twelve Mile Creek, and then, entering the woods on the East side, in a few moments arrives at the bed of the rippling, laughing, rapid stream which comes down from the falls. The pleasure seeker has now the choice of two routes; he can either take the path which winds high up the bank or else pursue the margin of the stream. The latter although by far the most difficult, is the most charming. The bed of the stream is thickly strewn with boulders and immense pieces of rocks, which, with the ordinary changes of nature, become detached from the cliffs above and are hurled with thundering crash into the bed of the little river, and these help to form deep pools and shallows, around which, when a freshet occurs, the waters lash and swirl in fantastic forms. Along the banks at short intervals is met the great roots of the old forest monarchs which hang in threatening shape over the stream; whilst along the slope the profusion of undergrowth is a paradise for the enthusiastic botanist; ferns in manifold variety, blue anemones, and a thousand other rare types of floral herbage, appear as if some rare conservatory was lavishly scattered over the moss-covered rock and soil. In the trees overhead the feathered race find a soft retreat, and with their warblings appear as if trying to drown the noise of the babbling brook below. Arriving at the foot of the first or lower fall, the scene is truly grand, and words would almost fail to describe the wild cosiness of this little glen. The fall, from here appears to be about fifty feet high, and tumbles in almost unbroken force into the deep chasm with a deafening roar. Here a few hours may be well spent in a delightfully cool atmosphere, safe from the hot rays of the sun, and as much at peace as if in some cavern remote from all human kind. At the base of the fall are a number of very large rocks, around which the waters, struggling to escape, play many a prank, strongly reminding one of the poet's description of a similar scene:

" In and out and round about,
To join the rolling river.

The tourist wishing to see the upper fall, can now ascend the steep bank, and, by following the rugged pathway

with care—because a false step might hurl him to the bottom—will in a short time, arrive at the top of the lower fall. The climb, although a tiring one, will be amply repaid, as the view is excellent, the gorge below appearing like a lovely green vista, broken only by the splash and foam of this miniature rapids and whirlpool, lost in the distance of the dim perspective. Unless the water is very high the pedestrian can follow up the bed of the stream; otherwise he may take the path and soon arrive at the upper fall. This is the largest and prettiest of the two. The fall is much higher, and comes over a rock forming the segment of a circle, with beautiful regularity. The bare cliffs hollowed out in many places to a depth of over twelve feet, hang out in frowning grandeur, with wild vines and other trailing and creeping plants falling in festoons over the edges. These with a gentle breeze sway to and fro, lending a fan-like appearance to the fairy scene—unequalled in Canada. A great deal more might be said extolling this place, which, for a quiet family picnic or other out-door day's amusement, cannot be excelled, its only drawback being the difficulty of approach, which with a little enterprise on the part of the owners and a trifling charge might be accomplished. In connection with the falls, there is a legend that at one time a famous Indian cave existed here, the entrance to which is now closed, but might by perseverance, be found by some adventurous wonder seeker.

A REAL NECESSITY.—No house should be without a bottle of Hagyard's Yellow Oil, in case of accident. There is no preparation offered to suffering humanity that has made so many permanent cures, or relieved so much pain and misery. It is called by some the Good Samaritan, by others the Cure-all, and by the afflicted an Angel of Mercy. \$35

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CHINESE DWARF TREE.

We have all known from childhood how the Chinese cramp their women's feet and so manage to make them keepers at home; but how they contrive to grow miniature pines and oaks in flower-pots for half a century has always been much of a secret. They aim first and last at the seat of vigorous growth, endeavoring to weaken it as much as may be consistent with the preservation of life. Take a young plant—say a seedling or cutting of a cedar—when only two or three inches high, cut off its tap-root as soon as it has other rootlets enough to live upon, and replant it in a shallow earthen pot or pan. The end of the tap-root is generally made to rest on a stone within it. Alluvial clay is then put into the pot, much of it in bits the size of beans, and just enough in kind and quantity to furnish a scanty nourishment to the plant. Water enough is given it to keep it in growth, but not enough to excite a vigorous habit. So likewise is the application of light and heat. As the Chinese pride themselves on the shape of their miniature trees, they use strings, wires, and gags, and various other mechanical contrivances to procure symmetry of habit or to fashion their pets into odd fancy figures. Thus by the use of very shallow pots, the growth of the tap-root is out of the question; by the use of poor soil and little of it, and little water, any strong growth is prevented. Then, too, the top and side roots being within easy reach of the gardener, are shortened by his pruning knife or seared with his hot iron. So the little tree, finding itself headed on every side, gives up the idea of strong growth, asking

only for life, and just life enough to look well. Accordingly each new set of leaves become more and more stunted, the buds and rootlets are diminished in proportion, and at length a balance is established between every part of the tree, making it a dwarf in all respects. In some kinds of trees this end is reached in three or four years, in others ten or fifteen are necessary. Such is fancy horticulture among the Celestials.
—*Boston Watchman.*

ALL forms of Nervous Debility so commonly prevalent, yield to the vitalizing powers of Burdock Blood Bitters. It is the best regulator of the Liver, Bowels, and Kidneys; the most perfect Blood Purifier and permanent Tonic known. Purely vegetable, safe and pleasant to take, and unailing in its effects as a health restorative. Sample bottles 10 cents. f3t5

PROOF OF ANIMAL LIFE IN OTHER PLANETS.

Two interesting problems which have long perplexed the scientific world appear to have been at last definitely solved by the eminent geologist Dr. Hahn. These questions are,—first whether or not celestial bodies, other than the earth, belonging to our solar system, are inhabited by animate beings, and secondly,—whether the meteoric stones from time to time cast upon the surface of this globe emanate from incandescent comets or from volcanic planets. That they at no time formed a part of the earth itself has been conclusively demonstrated.

Dr. Hahn has recently completed a series of investigations upon some of the huge meteoric stones that fell from the skies in Hungary during the summer of 1866. Thin laminæ of these mysterious bodies, subjected to examination under a powerful microscope, have been found to contain coralline and spongy formations and to reveal unmistakable traces of the lower forms of vegetation. All the organisms, animal and vegetable, discovered by Dr. Hahn in the delicate stone shavings he has thus dealt with, indicate the condition of their parent world to be one of what is technically termed 'primary formation.' But the presence of water in that world is proved by the fact that the tiny petrified creatures revealed by the magic of the lens, one and all belong to the so-called subaqueous class of animals. They could not have existed in comets at least if the assumption be correct that these are in a state of active combustion.

"WHERE have you been for a week back?" enquired a man of his neighbor. "I have not a weak back," retorted he, "you misunderstand me," remarked his friend; "but if you ever get a weak back try Burdock Blood Bitters. It cures all debility arising from disordered Kidneys, Liver or Blood, and is the best purifying Tonic in the world. All medicine dealers supply sample bottles at 10 cents, regular size \$1.00. f375

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HOW TO BOIL AND STEW.

To do either properly, the food must be immersed at the beginning in actually boiling water, and the water must be allowed to reach the boiling point again immediately, and to boil for about five minutes. The action of the boiling water upon the surface of either meat or vegetables is to harden it slightly, but enough to prevent the escape either of juices or mineral salts.

After the water covering the food has begun to boil a second time, the pot should be removed to the side of the fire, and the water allowed to simmer until the food is done. This simmering or stewing extracts all the nutritious qualities of either meat or vegetables; the pot should be kept closely covered unless for a moment when it is necessary to raise the cover in order to remove the scum. The steam will condense upon the inside of the cover, and fall back into the pot in drops of moisture, if the boiling is slow. Do not think that rapid boiling cooks faster than the gentle process which I recommend.

After the water once boils, you can not make it cook any faster if you have fire enough under it to run a steam engine. So save your fuel and add it to the fire little by little, to keep the water boiling. Remember if you boil meat fast and hard it will be tough and tasteless, and most of its goodness will go up the chimney or out of the window with the steam.

BELIEVERS are not dependent upon circumstances. Their joy comes not from what they have, and from what they are; not from what they enjoy, but from that which they have suffered for them by their Lord. It is a singular joy, then because it often buds, blossoms and ripens in winter time, and when the fig-tree does not blossom, and there is no herbage in the stall, God's Habakkuks rejoice in the salvation.—*Spurgeon.*

A NEW MACHINE.^{FR.}—A California inventor has made a machine for pressing and drying potatoes, so that they will keep for years, yet preserve their natural flavor. No chemicals are used in the operation of curing, everything being done by a simple machine, capable of pressing 600 bushels of potatoes in 24 hours. The machine not only presses the potatoes, but lays them on a tray in a concave form with the hollow side down. After the pressure they are put into a drying apparatus where they remain for two hours; then they are ground into coarse meal, resembling cracked rice. The first shipment of these preserved potatoes to Liverpool last year brought a large profit. The average price of potatoes in San Francisco is about 25 cents a bushel; dried, they brought in England 45s a hundred-weight.

WORLDLY faces never look so worldly as at a funeral. They have the same effect of grating incongruity as the sound of a coarse voice breaking the solemn stillness of night.—*George Eliot.*

A BEAUTIEUL person is the natural form of a beautiful soul. The mind builds its own house. The soul takes precedence of the body, and shapes the body to its own likeness. A vacant mind takes all the meaning out of the fairest face. A sensual disposition deforms the handsome features. A cold selfish heart shrivels and distorts the best looks. A groveling spirit takes all the dignity out of the figure, and all the character out of the countenance. A cherished hatred transforms the most beautiful lineament into an image of ugliness.