

greatest service in the every day practice of future life, and these are what should be taught to the young while the mind is in a receptive or plastic state so that they will form a basis of action when the necessity arises for giving effect to the knowledge thus acquired.

GEO. MOORE.

**EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS AT L'HOTEL
DIEU DU SACRE - CŒUR,
QUEBEC, 1899.**

Oh were I in some distant land remaining,
And far away for Temples or Divines,
I still could find, in Flowers of God's ordaining,
Priests, sermons, shrines.

Besides the means which the Church uses for the conversion of sinners, the all wise Father has appointed other means which are potent sometimes to accomplish the same result or at least to assist in doing so, and while we are taught the mercy of God we are also or should be impressed with the greatness of this country in the beauties of nature. The Heavens are telling the glory of God and the sweet flowers of Earth are no less reading silent homilies to the observant soul, or chanting glad anthems in His praise. It is well understood now that flowers exercise a refining and elevating influence on the human mind, and there are some well authenticated instances on record of the most depraved having been touched and awakened to their true position by the sight or perfume of some little way-side flower, which has led to their reformation and the abandonment of vicious habits and pursuits. Appreciating this, the Revd. Ladies of the Sacred Heart, Quebec, have turned their attention to the cultivation of flowers, and as a means by which they could raise funds to enable them to carry on their noble work of ministry to the sick and needy. Having been successful as florists, they have this year been holding an exhibition in the seven greenhouses attached to the Hospital garden. During the several weeks it has been open, it has been visited by great numbers who have greatly enjoyed the treat thus prepared for them.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the display nor of the enterprise, skill and indefatigable energy of the Revd. Sisters, and their evidently highly efficient, intelligent and most enthusiastic gardener, M. George E. Gagnon. In many respects the show was much more interesting than a floral exhibition in which the plants are brought to-

gether for a day or two, and have to be hurriedly arranged. Here, the plants are all seen growing together in rich profusion and producing by contrast and harmony a well studied pictorial effect as a whole, and yet the plants are not so crowded as to prevent a due inspection of each individual specimen. Here, the student of Nature can find food for knowledge and reflection. The Lily in all its purity, delicacy or brilliancy of colors, more beautiful than those in which Solomon was arrayed. Plants too which are associated with the dearest legends and experiences of the Christian faith, as for instance that which is commonly called the Crown Cactus, because its believed that from it the "Crown of Thorns" was made. If however is not, properly speaking, a Cactus, but a Euphorbia a genus nearly allied to the Cacti. It is an evil looking plant, its stems being covered with dangerous spines, and its flowers of a bright red color growing amongst them, might, by a little stretch of the imagination, be taken for drops of blood. On entering the first greenhouse, the visitor is greeted by an elegant specimen of the new Begonia, President Carnot, with its large bunches of delicate flesh color, waxy blossoms. This is the Queen of the Begonias, of which there is a large collection here, and it is one of the best window plants, being easy of culture, comparatively free from insects and nearly always in bloom. Of curious and economic plants we noticed the Rubber tree, *Ficus elastica*, *Cyperus*, *Lago* and many other Palms. *Caladiums*, Arrowroot, *Dra-cœna*, the night scented Jasmine, and the elegant climber *Salamun Jasminades*, which no one, admiring its graceful festoons of rich green foliage or jewel-like blossoms would suppose belonged to the same family as the homely but indispensable potato.

Here is also a very excellent collection of Fans; including the one so popular in the United States, about which there is a craze, as it would appear, for no American home is considered complete without its "Boston Fan," and the grower devotes himself and his extensive plant houses, exclusively to their culture, disposing of many thousands annually.

But the most interesting specimens to a connoisseur at the Sacred Heart are two distinct varieties of the well known Norfolk Island Pine, *Araucaria excelsa*. They exceed this elegant tree in beauty by their deep green color and graceful habit of growth. The two plants were brought