



ASA GRAY.

The name of Asa Gray, who died at Cambridge on the 30th of January, will long be cherished by the students of American botany. His life was an example of untiring industry and patient research. His enthusiasm has been inspiring to many a student, and no one who came in personal contact with him, or to whom he addressed letters of assistance and encouragement, will ever forget the magic of his cheerful and hearty sympathy. He combined with rare mental endowments the ardent enthusiasm which distinguishes the true teacher of science. For more than half a century his distinguished labors in behalf of American botany have produced results which only the most tireless industry and ability could accomplish. His elementary works, "Elements of Botany," "How Plants Grow," "How Plants Behave," "Lessons in Botany," and "Structural and Systematic Botany," are models of precision, simplicity and comprehensiveness. His "Manual of Botany of the Northern United States," which has passed through five editions, has been in the hands probably of every American and Canadian botanist. His "Text-Book of Botany," issued during the past year, is a revised edition of "The Lessons." Two volumes of the "Genera of North America" have been published. His "Field, Forest, and Garden Botany" was published in 1868. The great work of his life is the "Synoptical Flora," which, as far as published, consists of a volume of 974 pages on the gamopetalous

orders. In addition to these he has published other works and numerous memoirs and papers, all of which have gained for him fame as a botanist which the coming years will increase, and when it will be fully realized what he has accomplished for American botany.

Dr. Gray was crowned with diplomas and honors from all the principal universities of Europe, and during the past summer, while travelling in England, received degrees from the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh. A host of friends in Cambridge and throughout the country will feel that his death has extinguished a bright and cheering light in the world of thought, and has removed a most cherished and valued friend and companion.

#### LABRADOR TEA.

The *North Sydney Herald*, Cape Breton, concludes a short article on this subject as follows: "Evidently the people of Cape Breton are in ignorance of the growth of this tea. If the REVIEW writer be correct our people are losing a grand opportunity of making fortunes out of this wonderful plant. Let an investigation be had." The *Herald* puts the case much stronger than the REVIEW; yet there is nothing, we suppose, like putting it strongly in order to draw attention. We publish the following letters, which have appeared in the *Halifax Chronicle* since the publication of our article, as they are valuable contribution to our knowledge of the subject.

To the Editor of the Chronicle:

SIR,—Your article published near the close of the year on the so-called Labrador tea plant, which is so abundant in Nova Scotia, has elicited useful notes from Principal McKay, of Pictou, and Mr. Fox, whose experience in the Magdalen Islands renders the information he furnishes of especial value. There is one point to which it seems desirable to call attention. If the leaves are collected at this season, they may probably yield a strong resinous or turpentine flavor not likely to be agreeable to any one. But if gathered in early summer time, whilst the wool on their lower surface is pale, and the secretion has not lost its more volatile constituents, they may furnish a more agreeably flavored beverage. Actual experience is the best guide in such matters, and if Mr. Fox will kindly tell us more fully the way in which the tea is prepared by those who use it, his hints will no doubt serve to obviate failures on the part of those disposed to make trials. The particulars required are such as the following: Season for gathering the leaves, whether only young leaves are used, mode of drying, rapid or slow, quantity used in infusion, time required for infusion and whether the tea is to be put into cold water or heated, or to be at once covered with boiling water, as in case of ordinary tea. Also, whether it should be actually boiled, or care taken to prevent boiling. I hope Mr. Fox will pardon me for suggesting these points as necessary ones to be known.