



AMATEUR GARDENING.

NURSE: "Why, Flossie! What are you doing?"

FLOSSIE (who has been watching the gardener at work): "I wants to det some 'tittle kittens!"—*Puck*.

A comparison with the foregoing of Thackeray's treatment of the same theme may be of value to the young student:—

How spoke of old the Royal seer?
(His text is one I love to treat on)
This life of ours, he said, is sheer
Matiotes Mataioteton.

O student of this gilded Book,
Declare, while musing on its pages,
If truer words were ever spoke
By ancient or by modern sages?

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How low men were, and how they rise!
How high they were and how they tumble!
O Vanity of Vanities!
O laughable, pathetic jumble!

We shall close this paper with the ballad on
"An American Girl," as depicted by a country-
man of hers, Brander Matthews:—

She's had a Vassar education,
And points with pride to her degrees;
She's studied household decoration;
She knows a dado from a frieze,
And tells Corots from Boldonis;
A Jacquemart etching, or a Haden,
A Whistler, too, perchance might please
A free and frank young Yankee maiden.

She does not care for meditation;
Within her bonnet are no bees;
She has a gentle animation,
She joins in singing simple glees,
She tries no trills, no rivalries
With Lucca (now Baron in Raden),
With Nilsson or with Gerster; she's
A frank and free young Yankee maiden.

I'm blessed above the whole creation,
Far, far, above all other he's;
I ask you for congratulation
On this the best of jubilees:
I go with her across the seas
Unto what Poe would call an Aiden.
I hope no serpent's there to tease
A frank and free young Yankee maiden.

ENVOY.

Princes, to you the western breeze
Bears many a ship and heavy laden;
What is the best we send in these?
A free and frank young Yankee maiden.

The beauty of the above composition is somewhat marred by such contractions as "I'm," "he's" and "she's," which are too offhanded and slipshod.

The next paper of this series will deal with the "Chant Royal."

DECORATIVE HINTS.

Portières for summer should be made of light material, something airy in effect. An attractive and inexpensive one is of coloured bunting, with appliqué embroidery, or a band of cretonne leaves or flowers sewed on and outlined with tinsel. A pretty one is of cream albatross, edged with red zephyr pompons, or a row of small crocheted rosettes of various shades with a gilt bead attached to the centre of each. A neat one is of scrim, interlaced with ribbon.

Old lace curtains mended with darned net or bobinet, then washed in weak coffee and when dry hung over coloured cambric or silesia make a rich looking portière.

A pretty lambrequin for curtains is of two or more shades of satin arranged in a row, the colours blending. Three rows are sufficient, or they can be made to form three points, the centre point longer than the other two. They are prettier if beads are sewn on the points.

Faded surah sashes can be dyed a dark shade, and, with a spray of embroidery at each end, made into scarfs for the table or dresser.

An effective scarf for a table is of black velvet, with a bunch of downy thistle pompons, with green paper leaves arranged artistically at each end and tied with a bow of red ribbon.

ESPERANTO.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE WHICH IS TO
SUPERSEDE VOLAPUK.

The obstacle encountered in the attempt to impose a scientific universal language on the world is the unwillingness of the great majority of people in the world to devote much time to becoming scientific. This obstacle Dr. Esperanto, of Warsaw, has bravely endeavoured to overcome, and the result is an international language, the dictionary of which consists of a single leaflet. We have it now before us, with the author's compliments and assurances that any one can learn to read and write it in a single hour. The principle by which it aims to facilitate international intercourse is quite simple and ingenious in its adaptation of a system already extensively used in commerce. The American merchant with business connections in different parts of the world provides himself with the leaflet dictionaries of Dr. Esperanto's language. He is not required to know any other language than his own, nor are his foreign correspondents required to know the Esperanto language. His correspondents being located in Berlin and Paris, he wishes to inform them that "the cat is white." Then:

X=the cat=le chat=die Katze
Y=is=est=ist
Z=white=blanc=weiss.

To him, "x,y,z," means "the cat is white;" to his Paris correspondent, "le chat est blanc" and to the one in Berlin, "die Katze ist weiss." He writes the "x,y,z," message to each of them, enclosing to Paris the leaflet containing the international language with French translations and to Berlin the international German leaflet. If he wishes to correspond with people in all parts of the world, he must have international leaflets in all languages of the world and enclose the appropriate leaflet in each letter. So far Dr. Esperanto is a practical man.

As a scientist he is undoubtedly scientific. His language is not composed of algebraic signs, but of Latin roots. According to Professor Max Mueller, the Latin language can be reduced to three hundred original ideas by the combinations of which its wonderful vocabulary became possible. It can be analysed into eight hundred roots, from which all its words are formed, and Dr. Esperanto takes these roots for the basis of his language. A sample of it will illustrate:

Je la komenc,o Di,o kre,is la ter,o,n kaj la ciel,o,n.
Kaj la ter,o est,is sen,for,ma kaj dezert,a, kaj mal,lum,o
est,is super la profund aj,o, kaj la anim,o de Di,o si,n
port,is super la akv,o. Kaj Di,o dir,is est,u lum,o; kaj
far,ig,is lum,o. Kaj Di,o vid,is la lum,o,n ke gi est,as
bon,a, kaj nom,is Di,o la lum,o,n tag,o kaj la mal,lum,o,n
Li nom,is nokt,o.

The reader can almost translate this correctly without having devoted even an hour to Esperanto, but a little elucidation will make it perfectly plain. There is only one article, "la," "the"; and prepositions and conjunctions have been reduced to the fewest possible. There are only two cases, the nominative and the objective, and all nouns end in "o"; adjectives have no case or number, and end always in "a"; the pronouns are declined like nouns, and all given in the dictionary. The verb undergoes no change for number or person; the termination "as" is the sign of the present and "is" of the past. The termination "in" is the sign of the feminine, thus: "Di,o," "God," "di,in,o," "god-dess." This is the grammar of Esperanto almost complete, and we may now proceed to translate a sample sentence of Esperanto:

Je (in) la komenc,o (the beginning) Di,o (God) kre,is (created) la ter,o,n (the earth) kaj (and) la ciel,o,n (the heaven).

All prefixes and terminations are separate words, and when in combination are set off by commas, so that they can be identified and found in the dictionary. Thus, in "ter,o,n," the "o" shows that it is a noun, and the "n" that it is in the objective. All nouns express and all adjectives describe something that either exists or does not exist, and so the two principle prefixes of Esperanto are "sen,"