

## GOLDEN-ROD.

Ripe grew the year. Then suddenly there came,

With the significance of a smile of God,  
O'er all the edges of the world a flame,—  
The mild apocalypse of the golden-rod.

Charles G. D. Roberts, in *September Lippincott's*.

## SOME USES OF CHLOROFORM.

Professor Burt G. Wilder, of Cornell, suggests that chloroform should be used freely to relieve the victims of railroad accidents. With an axe, bar, and saw at one end of every passenger car should be a tin can of chloroform, the mouth closed with soft metal, easily cut with a knife, the whole being placed in a box lined with absorbent cotton. In a disaster, one or two tablespoonfuls upon a handkerchief held near the nostrils would lessen sensibility very soon. An otherwise inaccessible sufferer could be supplied by means of a cane, umbrella, or fence-rail. For years, says Professor Wilder, I have carried a flat two-ounce vial of chloroform in a hip pocket. It has not yet been needed in a railway wreck, but it has often served as a speedy counter-irritant for the relief of inward pain. It is ready to dash in the face of an assailant, biped or quadruped, and has been emptied repeatedly to put out of misery some homeless cat. Finally, emptied upon their nostrils, it has induced several ferocious dogs to stand not upon the order of their going but go at once. As a canine pacificator, chloroform is prompt and potent, and emergencies might arise when it could profitably replace the dangerous club in the treatment of human recalcitrants.

## HEROINES OF RECENT FICTION.

From Dickens and Thackeray to George Eliot what a tremendous leap we take, as regards characterization! It is to me highly significant that it is to a woman we owe the first really convincing and authentic portraits of women in English fiction. I ought, perhaps, to limit that statement by saying good women. For Becky Sharp and the Campaigner have no lack of distinctness; and they are alive in every nerve and fibre. But what becomes of Laura in "Pendennis," of Amelia, of Rose MacKenzie, when confronted with Maggie Tulliver in "The Mill on the Floss," or Rosamond Vincy or Dorothea Brooke in "Middlemarch"? I cannot quote the descriptions of any of these heroines, because they are scattered through several volumes and are altogether too long. The fact is, they grow upon you like actual acquaintances, and there is no sort of pretence that they were transcendent, perfect, supremely adorable. It is in their struggles, their blunders, their imperfections, their blindly groping aspirations, that the author endeavours to enlist your sympathy. They belong to that noble class of heroines in which the pulse of our common humanity beats warmly; which may be the friend and companion of man—a better and safer fate, indeed, than to be his ideal. Women like Dorothea, Rosamond, and Maggie contribute a definite individuality for good or for ill to the lives of the men whom they marry, and though they may wreck the marriage by demanding more of it than in our imperfect condition it is likely to yield, they are more instructive, more typical, more supremely interesting in their failures than any ideal heroine, of the romantic kind, in her fictitious success.—H. H. Boyesen, in *Lippincott's*.

## PUBLIC OPINION.

St John Globe: Less than one-half the strikes which occur can be called successful, and even when success is gained it is often but temporary. If the strike has been of extended duration years must sometimes elapse before the increased rate of wages can compensate for the loss of time spent in idleness.

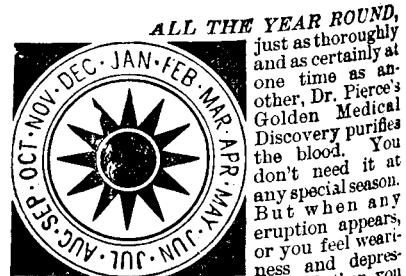
Vancouver News-Advertiser: Now, among the lessons which may be learned from the events of the past twelve months, we think there is one, which, on more than one occasion, has been brought very conspicuously under notice—the absolute necessity there is for reaching a better understanding between employers and employees.

Halifax Chronicle: If the protective duties on farm products enable the farmer to sell those products for a higher price than he would be able to do if there were no protective duties imposed, then to that extent the farmer is benefited so long as he is selling; but when he comes to apply the proceeds of his sales to the purchase of goods required in the house and on the farm, he makes an important and startling discovery.

Montreal Star: It is a true instinct which makes the Conservative press fear Mr. McCarthy more than Mr. Laurier and his host. Mr. McCarthy has no entangling alliances. While it is true that his attitude on the Manitoba school question and the dual language question has estranged a certain section of the population, it is equally true that his attitude on these questions and his motives have been absurdly misrepresented both by friends and foes. Above all, it is evident that Mr. McCarthy represents two principles which are popular from end to end of the Dominion—"British Connection" and "Tariff Reform."

Hamilton Herald: No, religious feeling is not decreasing, it is steadily increasing, and the fact is to the credit of Canadians. Whatever views people may hold on religious matters, it cannot be denied that the teachings of the church are all for good, and if people would only live up to their professions and to the timely truths told them from the pulpit the millennium would soon arrive. Considering the conditions under which we live and their tendency to develop all that is mean and selfish in human beings at the expense of the sweeter and more lovable qualities of mind and heart, the churches are doing wonderful work in the world. That they may grow and prosper is the wish of all who hope for the dawning of a brighter day.

The Colonies and India: Vice-Admiral Sir John Hopkins, at a banquet given the other evening to the officers of the warships visiting Montreal, urged that the Canadians should not give up the last Atlantic service. In the course of a conversation afterwards, the Admiral said that all the difficulties of the St. Lawrence route were at the Straits of Belleisle, where fogs were frequent, causing a few hours' detention. This was balanced by the shorter distance compared with the New York route. The difficulty would be overcome if buoys could be placed off the Straits of Belleisle as they were placed off Halifax Harbour, which the *Blake* had twice entered without seeing land. Inside the Gulf of St. Lawrence there were practically no obstacles to navigation, and the channel could be navigated



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independently of fogs, being excellently buoyed and lighted. Warships came up to Quebec without the help of a pilot.

## STRAWBERRIES VERSUS GOUT.

Strawberries have for a long time had a well-established reputation as a remedy for the gout. Dr. A. George, in the *Annales de la Societe Horticole de l'Aube*, tells us that in the last century the great botanist Linnæus, who was gouty, had much cause to extol the action of the fruit in this disease. At this epoch, when uric acid was unknown, he had the prescience that the chemical cause of gout was identical with that of gravel, and he expressed himself in a picturesque manner to one of his friends when he wrote to him: "I have the gout and you have the gravel; we have married two sisters." The only method that Linnæus found of easing his gout was by an abundant use of this fruit, to which he has made a graceful acknowledgment in his writings.

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