

health to the sick, home to the wandering, friends to the forsaken, peace to the troubled, rest to the weary, life to the dying. It has sunshine in its eye, encouragement on its tongue, and inspiration in its hand.

It is one of the three great elements of Christian life and character. Faith is the root, love the fruit-bearing stem, and hope the heaven-reaching crown of the tree of Christian life. The kingdom of God, past, present and future, is reflected in faith, love and hope. It is the assurance that the spiritual life which dwells in us here will be prolonged into eternity. To live without it, is blind infatuation—to die without it, eternal ruin. Therefore entertain and cultivate a "lively hope." Let its inspiring influence be in the heart of every youth, to strengthen and encourage. "Hope and strive is the way to thrive."

Hope, like the taper's gleamy light,
Adorns the wretch's way;
And still, as darker grows the night,
Emits a brighter ray.

Contributed.

THE STUDY OF BOTANY.

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The study of Nature in any of her forms is highly interesting and useful. But the *heavenly bodies* are far distant from us; even were they within our reach, they are too mighty for us to grasp; our feeble minds seem overwhelmed in the contemplation of their immensity.

Animals, though affording the most striking marks of a designing creator, cannot be dissected and examined without painful emotions.

But the *vegetable world* offers a boundless field of inquiry which may be explored with the most pure and delightful emotions. Here the Almighty seems to manifest himself to us with less of that dazzling sublimity which it is almost painful to behold in His more magnificent creations; and it would seem that accommodating the vegetable world to our capacities of observation, He had especially designed it for our investigation and amusement, as well as our sustenance and comfort.

The study of Botany is at once a healthful and delightful pursuit; the objects of its investigation are beautiful and delicate; its explorations, leading

to exercise in the open air, are conducive to health and cheerfulness. It is not a sedentary study which can be acquired in the library but the objects of the science are scattered over the surface of the earth, along the banks of the winding brooks, on the borders of precipices, the sides of the mountains, and the depths of the forest.

The Deity has not only placed before us an almost infinite variety of plants, but has given to our minds the power of reducing them into classes, so as to form beautiful and regular systems, by which we can comprehend, under a few terms, the vast number of individuals which would otherwise present to our bewildered minds a confused and indiscriminate mass. This power of the mind, so important in classification, is that of discovering resemblances. A child sees a flower which he is told is a rose; he sees another resembling it, and nature teaches him to call that also a rose. On such an operation of the mind depends the power of forming classes, or of generalizing. Some relations are seen at the first glance; others are not discovered until after close examination and reflection; but the most perfect classification is not always founded on the most obvious resemblances. A person ignorant of Botany on beholding the profusion of flowers which adorns the face of nature would discover general resemblances and perhaps form in his mind some order of arrangement; but the system of Botany now in use, neglecting the most conspicuous parts of the flower, is founded upon the observation of small parts of it, which a common observer might not notice. System is necessary in every science. It not only assists in the acquisition of knowledge but enables us to retain what is thus acquired; and by the laws of association, to call forth what is treasured up in the storehouse of the mind. System is important not only in the grave and elevated departments of science, but is essential to the most common concerns and operations of ordinary life.

Now the very logical and systematic arrangement which prevails in botanical science, has, without doubt, a tendency to produce in the mind the habit of order, which, when once established, will operate in the minutest concerns. Whoever traces this system through its various connections, by a gradual progress from individual plants to general classes, until the whole vegetable world seems brought into one point of view, and then descends in the same methodical manner, from generals to particulars, must acquire a habit of arrangement, and a perception of order, which is the true practical logic.

We find in the vegetable tribes not only a source of refined enjoyment in the contemplation of their beautiful forms and colors; in their fragrance, by which, in their peculiar language, they seem to