

What wonder that, with associations like these, I should linger on this interesting spot until the distant heights of Parnes grew dark and shadowy, and the lights gleamed in the windows of the city below and in the windows of the city above; and still I lingered, till the moon lifted her queenly head above Hymettus, and shed her soft weird light upon the scene. I could not resist the temptation to ascend the Acropolis and view its ruins by moonlight. It was an hour not soon to be forgotten.

As I walked there among the majestic ruins of the dead past, and shadows dark and ghostly fell upon the scene, each column and mutilated statue seemed a thing of life, and spoke in sepulchral tones of the vanity of human greatness. I saw pass before me the grand solemn procession of kings and heroes, philosophers and sages, who had mingled in the religious rites of these sacred shrines, and had given to Athens her matchless fame. Long and illustrious was the line of the distinguished dead that passed before my vision, each wearing his crown of earthly honor, all marching on to an immortality. What? Where?

In musings like these the hours passed, and the night was far advanced when I walked slowly down through the still imposing ruins of the Propylea, around the base of the hill, to the street leading to my hotel.

At the Eastern base of the Acropolis are the well-preserved ruins of the theater of Dionysus, or Bacchus, with the marble seats assigned to the priests and dignitaries of the State, still bearing their names. What must have been the morals of a people whose ministers of religion and administrators of justice were so intimately associated with such scenes! What wonder that the traveller should to-day walk amid the ruins of such a civilization!

Among the grandest ruins of Athens are those of the temple of Zeus Olympus, a little to the east of the theater of Dionysus. They consist of sixteen massive Corinthian columns, seventy feet high and seven and a half feet in diameter. Imagine the grandeur of this temple, covering a vast area, enclosed by a hundred and twenty-six of these huge yet strikingly beautiful columns. Within the temple stood a colossal statue of Jupiter, made of gold and ivory. But my space is too brief even to enumerate the rare and interesting sights of this center of ancient history.

The modern city of Athens has a European look. It contains from 40,000 to 50,000 inhabitants, and has grown to its present importance almost wholly within the last forty years. It has many substantial and tasteful buildings. But its chief glory is in its hills, with their historic associations and commanding views. No city I have visited charmed me more. For days it held me a willing prisoner in its fascinating bonds. Every evening found me at the sunset hour on this Hill of Mars, whither I invited your company at the commencement of this sketch; and the longer I gazed on the panorama around me—the near pyramidal summit of Lycabettus, or the distant peaks of Cythaeron, the hill of the Muses and that of the

Nymphs, just over against me, the silvery waters of the Saronic gulf on the south, or the shadowy heights of Parnes and Pentelicus on the north—the more entrancing was the view.

Thus, amid the glories of nature, the wealth of art, the triumphs of genius, the victories of valor, the trophies of heroism, the grand associations of the historical past, and the fascinating beauty of the living present, these days and nights in Athens flew on swiftest wings, as a dream of fairy land.—*Ex.*

## \* MISCELLANY.\*

### PLANT CHARACTERISTICS.

BY H. F.

IF we do not present our readers with *poetry* in this issue, we give them something *nearly* poetical and of practical use to the boys in Science. It is written by one of themselves, and his attempt to place the characteristics of the Malvaceae and Hypericaceae in rhyme may aid many a memory over-burdened with the complexity of the subject:

#### MALVACEAE.

Malvaceae, herbs, shrubs or trees,  
Have stipulate, alternate leaves;  
Palmately veined they also are  
And the flowers are regular.  
Calyx valvate, so they say;  
Corolla convolute does lay.  
With stamens, many is the case,  
Monadelphous and at base  
United with the petals fast.  
Anthers one celled, while they last,  
Kidney shaped with open top  
From which the pollen grains will pop.  
Sepals five, all in their places,  
Ring of bracts, united bases.  
Petals five, notched apices.  
Pistils several, ovaries,  
United in a ring, and make  
A pod with cells, from which we take  
The seeds whose shape is reniform.  
Cotyledons doubled without harm.  
The plants are mucilageous  
With tough bark, but not poisonous,  
Common and example, ah!  
Malva Rotundifolia.

#### HYPERICACEAE.

Herbs or shrubs, but never trees,  
Opposite, entire, dotted leaves;  
Mostly sessile, stipules none;  
With flowers, in the general run,  
Which regular appear to us;  
Their position is hypogynous;  
They're solitary or cymose,