

he wore a crown of laurel on his head and a bunch of laurel in his right hand. The victorious army, horse and foot, were all crowned with laurel. When a General gained a victory his lieutenants wreathed their faces with laurel, as did also the soldiers their spears and javelins, he immediately sent letters wrapped round with laurel to the Senate to inform them of his success, and if the victory was considerable to demand a triumph. A triumph was decreed by the Senate and sometimes by the people against the will of the Senate, to the General who, in a just war with foreigners and in one battle had slain 5,000 enemies of the republic and by that victory enlarged the limits of the empire. And though we in this enlightened age do not make festivals in honor of Flora we follow in the footsteps of the Romans very closely. We make festivals in honor of great men and great events, and Flora adorns them all. The feast would be very meagre indeed if Flora did not grace it with her presence. We form floral arches for those to pass under whom we delight to honor, we strew flowers under the feet of our great ones, throw them in bouquets at the feet of our great actors and singers, deck our brides with them and strew them in their paths, hoping their lives may be as pure, as bright and as beautiful as the blossoms of morn, we make gardens for our dead where we put them to rest in eternal quietude, we lay them in the chilly urn beside our dead loved ones, we place them in their hands and lay them on their breasts and they all pass away together, Flora leading into the flowerful mould, ashes of Eve's children, ashes of Flora's, all commingling in their native earth, and we place immortelles over their last cold pillow fit emblem of essence that lives enshrined in affections memories, shadowy, silent, sanctified.

Every year millions of bodies blend together and are reduced to dust, yet nothing perishes in nature. The first groves produced by the power of God were clothed with rich verdure and beautiful leaves but the matter of which they were formed still exists and has lost none of its essential parts and the constituent part of the plants