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which is the largest of all, has two sepals.

The fable is that the pansy represents a family consisting of husband and wife and four daughters, two of the latter being stepchildren of the wife. The plain petals are the stepchildren, with only one chair; the two small, gay petals are the daughters, with a chair each, and the large, gay petal is the wife, with two chairs.

To find the father, one must strip away the petals until the stamens

and pistils are bare. They have a fanciful resemblance to an old man with a flannel wrap about his neck, his shoulders upraised, and his feet in a bathtub. The story is probably of French origin, because the French call the pansy the step-mother.

"The whole course of things goes to teach us faith. We need only obey. There is guidance for each of us, and by lowly listening we shall hear the right word."—Emerson.



Now that it is no longer customary in most parts of Canada for cattle, sheep, etc., to run at large, there may be some encouragement to consider the proposition put forth in the following excellent article, which appeared recently in Country Life in America. It seems time that all the artists and nature-lovers of our beautiful Canada should arise in wrath against the wholesale murder of our native shrubs and flowers, which has been going on for the past few years. Nowhere, perhaps, should there be a greater wealth of floral beauty—especially of the more delicate, fragile, appealing kind—than in Canada, and yet year by year we see the shearing, uprooting, devastating process continued, often when there is neither sense nor reason for it.

We trust that Mr. Bailey's article may be carefully read. Add to the list of flowers he has mentioned, a few more especially indigenous, perhaps, to our own land, Dogberry and Wild Cherry, Cardinal flower and Trillium, Dutchman's Breeches and Violet, Jewel Weed, Joe Pye Weed, Boneset, Wild Bergamot, Purple Aster, and many others, all harmless, all beautiful, all awaiting a chance to be permitted to grow wherever a suitable spot may offer; then think of a thousand burned and barren roadsides from which every tree, even, has been mercilessly cut.

The farmer, above all men, brought, as he is, every day, into close touch with all the beautiful things of wood and field, should not be unmindful of their beauty and their refining influence. He will be a better, gentler man, and none the less manly if to him "the primrose by the river's brim" is something more than merely a yellow primrose. He cannot turn his fields into a flower-garden, but he can, at least, enjoy the beauties of the wayside, nor turn his scythe against them. If he must cut, let him cut the aliens, and let our harmless native flowers live.

Why "Clean Up" the Roadside?

The only idea of neatness and good husbandry in many parts of the country seems to consist in ruthlessly destroying all the beautiful native growth of the wayside. The railways emulate the notion and mow down the beautiful herbage which is striving to reclaim the sandbanks. Instead of pleasant verdure, the traveller must look upon desert wastes or a mass of rotting or charred vegetation. The waysides, these people say, must be made decent; the wild-rose, the brier and the clematis uprooted; the fringed gentian and turtle-head mowed down. If one remonstrates and ventures timidously to suggest that this is flying in the face of God's providence, the chance is he will be insulted. Ignorance dies hard. These honest, but deluded workers really think that a gutter filled with cut and withered shrubbery is neater, cleaner, more acceptable, than a shady, fern-fringed lane.

What are we to do with such people? We have heard, but hope that it is not so, that certain State by-laws demand this vandalism. Arise, ye army of bicyclists, and have such legislation repealed! On Arbor Day—when a few saplings are stuck into the earth with overmuch oratory—send out rather your missionaries to preach the protection of what we now possess. Get laws passed

to prevent electric companies from mutilating our trees, or market men from allowing their horses to eat them up. Encourage everywhere the love of the beautiful.

It is a mistake to say that weeds spread from the highway. As a rule they do not. The native vegetation is not weedy; it is the unnaturalized, aggressive, brigandish immigrants, unlettered and tigrish, that we have to fear. But when we cut down the indigenous flower on the roadside, leaving fat soil, then look out for May-weed, thistle, carrot, parsnip, beggar-ticks and dock!

Along roadsides we often see the golden balls of tansy, beautifully contrasted with their fernlike foliage. Here, too, are the pink flowers of bouncing-bet, sometimes double, the sickly green of the cypress spurge and the old-fashioned tawny lily. Here the smaller Canterbury bell escapes and flourishes as in some English lane.

Of the plants last mentioned, few are ever seen far away from houses. It is pathetic if they abide, as is often the case, where houses once were.

Ferns especially love these wayside places, and spread their point-lace without money or price. And see the shrubs! Pink spires of hardhack, pretty white or delicately-tinted meadow-sweet; fragrant clethra; button-ball, perhaps, and almost ever the black alder. What a glory are the scarlet berries of this, lasting late into the winter. Then, see those cymes of elder—a rarer, more creamy lace even than that of carrot!

Who will protect these treasures for us?
WM. WHITMAN BAILEY.

Canary Vine, Cannas, etc.

Amateur, Elgin Co., writes: "Would the Canary-bird Vine be well for a veranda as an annual, with Sweet Peas intertwining? Where could I procure the seed of the former? Would Cannas and Lilies of the Valley bulbs, planted now, blossom this summer?"

Ans.—Canary Vine, with its delicate foliage and dainty little blossoms, is a very pretty veranda vine. We think the pink and purple tints of the Sweet Peas would be likely to clash, somewhat, with the yellow of the Canary flowers. Why not let the Canary Vine have a corner to itself, and simply plant some tall-flowering annuals to fill in below; Nicotiana (white), Gypsophila (white) and Coreopsis (yellow and brown) would be pretty, with Mignonette and Alyssum as an outside border. If, however, you wish a vine, Cinnamon Vine would do very well, as its growth is not so robust as to overshadow and crowd out the delicate Canary Vine.

Canna tubers may be planted any time during April or May, preferably in boxes of sand kept warm and moist. Do not set outside until all danger of frost is past, then put in deep, rich beds of muck and manure, and give a great deal of water all through the summer. In the fall, before frosts come, root and bring into the house, where they will bloom on nicely until their season is over.

We do not think you can expect many flowers from Lily of the Valley bulbs planted out now.

For any seeds that you require, write to Wm. Rennie & Co., Seedsmen, Toronto; Sammers & Co., Seedsmen, Toronto; Bruce & Co., Seedsmen, Hamilton; Keith, Seedsmen, Toronto.