



RED-STEMMED DOGWOOD—*Cornus stolonifera*.

And as the earth's first mercy, so they are its last gift to us : when all other service is vain, from plant and tree, the soft mosses and grey lichen take up their watch by the head-stone. The woods, the blossoms, the gift-bearing grasses, have done their parts for a time ; but these do service for ever. Trees for the builder's yard, flowers for the

bride's chamber, corn for the granary, moss for the grave.

"As in one sense the humblest, in another the lichens are the most honored of the earth-children. Unfading as motionless, the worm frets them not, and the autumn wastes not. Strong in loveliness, they neither blanch in heat, nor pine in frost. To them,