

It is agreed that the work of collection shall be limited to two hours, and accordingly as the distant boom of the noon bell comes over the fields, our botanists begin to straggle in again. It is nearly one o'clock, however, before the last detachment arrives. This consists of the boys who have made their way to the eastern end of the lake and the beaver-meadow. Their appearance is hailed with a shout of admiration, for of all the collections of flowers, theirs is certainly the most imposing. They must, indeed, have hit upon a veritable botanic garden, for each of them carries a huge bouquet, made up of a profusion of Lady's Slippers and other Orchids, together with Lilies, Pitcher Plants, and beautiful pink *Pyrolas*. These boys are flushed with the excitement of their walk and their success; and though the condition of their lower extremities would seem to indicate that they are not altogether unacquainted with bogs, they make no reference thereto, but dwell with enthusiasm, and some degree of extravagance perhaps, on the beauties of the scene they have just left. But the others, though their collections will not vie in brilliancy with the products of the beaver-meadow, have, nevertheless, in nearly every case, something of more than ordinary interest to show. The explorers of the lake margin were fortunate enough to find a punt, by means of which a number of aquatic plants, Yellow Pond-Lilies, Utricularias, the pretty white Water-Crowfoot, and the Water-Shield, were brought within their reach; and on the cool northern hill-side, trailing over the base of moss-covered stumps, specimens of the Twin-Flower—a special favourite of the great Linnæus, and named *Linnaea borealis* in his honour—were obtained, as well as Violets of various species, Woodbines, Mitchellas, etc. The open fields and fence-rows yielded St. John's-worts, Elder, Gnaphaliums of several species, a handsome *Rudbeckia*—the purple Cone-flower—and of course the ubiquitous Dandelion, and Mayweed and Mullein.

But just now there are cravings which are not intellectual, cravings too urgent to be disregarded. The interest in botany is, at this moment, decidedly of a secondary na-

ture, and when the lunch-baskets are sent for, and their contents exposed to view, the gravest doubts of their sufficiency are entertained and freely expressed. The fullest kind of justice is done to them, and in the course of a few minutes no vestige whatsoever remains—nothing even suggestive of them, save the shrunken wrappers, upon which some eyes are now turned with an expression almost approaching to gloom. It is suggested, and the suggestion meets with no opposition, that whatever may be the merits of botanical pursuits from an intellectual point of view, they have recommendations of a physical nature, not wholly unworthy of consideration; and it begins to dawn upon these youthful scientists, though as yet they have no clear conception of the ideal *mens sana in corpore sano*, that Botany has this decided advantage over all other school studies, that, to pursue it with efficiency, exercise of body must accompany exercise of mind. They can also comprehend that the botanical laboratory is as free as air to everyone who wishes to make use of it; that everywhere around them the lavish productions of Nature are only waiting to be asked, to unfold their beauties; and that anyone who holds converse with the silent yet eloquent creations of the floral world, must become imbued with more or less of the feeling which inspired the tenderest of American poets, when he sang of the flowers as

"Teaching us by most persuasive reasons,
How near akin they are to human things."

But the afternoon is advancing, and important work still remains to be done. It is not enough to admire colour and form; we must look a little deeper, and analyze the structure of our flowers with as much minuteness as may be suited to the capacity of the present students. In other words, we propose to turn our ramble to practical account in the way of an object-lesson, and to test the observing faculties by trying to assign to each plant its proper place in a botanical classification. A good many of the plants are recognized, without much difficulty, as being near relatives of species already examined in the class-room: the Lady's Slip-