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### Editorial Notes.

"To him, who, in the love of nature, holds  
Communion with her invisible forms, she speaks  
A various language: for his gayer hours  
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile  
And eloquence of beauty; and she glides  
Into his darker musings with a mild  
And gentle sympathy, that steals away  
Their sharpness, ere he is aware."

**A**T this season when each blade of grass  
and each tiny leaf, as it appears, are  
matters of interest to the student of  
nature, we never cease to wonder at the  
unfolding of the new volume of the year in  
its relation to vegetation.

Plant and animal life, while apparently  
differing so widely, are so similar in the low-  
est forms that we do not know where to draw  
the dividing line. Of one thing we are  
certain—that plant life absorbs from the air  
that which animals do not make use of and  
thus all food is produced from plants.

We accept the fact of seed time and har-  
vest, of the verdure of spring and the decay  
of autumn, and unless we have acquired a  
deeper interest by study we are in the posi-  
tion of one of two men of whom we have read,  
who, on being interrogated as to what he had  
seen abroad, replied in exactly the same  
terms as his companion, but the enthusiasm  
of the one and the indifference of the other,  
has caused the incident to be repeated as  
illustrating enlightened perception and the  
want of it, but having acquired, by ever so  
rudimentary study, a knowledge of plant  
life, the spring has a peculiar charm above all  
seasons, and as each well known plant  
appears at its appointed time, fulfils its mis-  
sion as food or shelter, passes into different  
forms or decays, its little history often speaks  
more eloquently to the student, than the well  
rounded periods from the lips of man.

During Christ's life upon earth he taught  
frequently by illustrations from the vegetable  
kingdom, he bids us "Consider the lilies of  
the field," teaching us to be trustful and less  
over anxious for the things of this life, he  
mentions sowing and reaping as an illustra-  
tive of the great principles of Christian  
living. We gather from His life that the book  
of nature was opened to His perception as  
to no other person, as every faculty which in  
us admits of cultivation was in Him perfected.

Bryant, in his beautiful "Forest Hymn,"  
speaks of the delicate forest flower that looks  
so like a smile, "Seems as it issues from the  
shapeless mould, an emanation of the indwell-  
ing life, a visible token of the upholding love,  
that are the soul of this wide universe."

Does any one doubt the fact of a great and  
universal Creator? The study of natural  
science will do more than establish him, as  
he compares it with revelation and finds no  
antagonism. Is any one among us heavy of  
heart? let him learn cheerfulness from the  
modest verdure which feels the impress of  
the foot upon it and again bravely lifts up its  
head. In thus cultivating a knowledge of  
the laws which govern the most common  
gifts to us, we cannot fail to enjoy life more  
fully, to give more pleasure to others and to  
more fully exemplify the teachings of Christ,  
our living Head.