

the occasion was composed of plain white tulle; the skirt trimmed with twelve scalloped flounces, finished at the edge by a narrow row of straw guipure, of an open work pattern, and as light and pliant as lace. Three bouquets ornamented the skirt, one on one side and two on the other. These bouquets all consisted of lilies of the valley with foliage, the whole formed of straw. In the hair a wreath of the same flowers was worn just above the neck at the back of the head. The wreath was terminated on each side by sprays of straw, lilies of the valley drooping over the neck and shoulders. These flowers, by candle-light, glitter like gold beads.

We may mention a new style of bridal wreath which has met with many admirers. A few buds of orange blossom placed in the centre of small pendent bouquets of white rose-buds, form the only link of resemblance between this and bridal wreaths formerly worn. The remainder of the wreath is made up of small flowers composed of feather, and light foliage of all tints formed of crape.

One of the new bonnets most remarkable for variety and elegance is composed of bouillonnés of white tulle, lilac ribbon being passed under each bouillonné. The trimming consisted of a bouquet placed on one side of the bonnet. The bouquet is composed of drooping sprays of the small blue flowers called the Periwinkle, and the foliage is formed of crape. A Leghorn bonnet, we have seen, is very prettily trimmed with a small wreath of the hazel with its clusters of white flowers, nuts, and foliage, correctly imitated from nature. On one side the wreath is terminated by a tuft or bouquet, and on the other by a flexible, drooping spray.

Among the articles just imported from Paris may be named a scarf of black tulle, ornamented with a series of large spots or circles of black velvet, alternating with ruffles of violet color gauze. The scarf is edged with two deep frills or flounces of rich Chantilly lace.

#### CANADIAN FLOWER GATHERER.

BY MRS. TRAILL, AUTHORESS OF "FOREST GLEANINGS," OAKLAND, RICE LAKE, C. W.

**ADANTION CAPILAIRE.**—*Maiden Hair Fern.*—Early in the month of May, may be observed by those who suffer their eyes to be occupied by what is going on among the lowly plants and herbs that spring up in their path, a most charming fern, known by the familiar names of Maiden's hair and Fairy fern, from its elegant lightness. It is one of the most graceful of all that graceful tribe of plants; its botanical name is *Adiantum* or Maiden's Hair; it grows in wild swampy and tangled thickets; it may be seen by the roadside, but mostly does it love the rich, black, spongy mould on the banks of creeks, and there you must often have noticed it. At first the leaf comes up curiously curled, having the appearance of a brown hairy caterpillar. A few warm hours of sunshine or soft rain makes the leaf unroll, and the tender leaflets expand. In three or four days what a change has been effected? The thick covering of brown hair has disappeared—no trace of its infant dress remaining visible on the whole plant. The stem becomes smooth, and black, and elastic, like

fine whalebone, supporting its exquisite foliage on foot-stalks of hair-like lightness, diverging in a semicircular form, and displaying fronds of the tenderest, most vivid green. Many other ferns retain the hairy covering, which forms a fringe of russet brown along the foot-stalks; and one in particular, that may often be seen in green-houses, is so clothed at its roots with this hair as to obtain from it the name of hare foot fern.

This elegant species, the *capillaire*, preserves its color well in drying, and will bear the pressure of a moderately heated iron, if laid between many folds of soft paper. It may be then pasted down on a sheet of thick white paper by the application of a camel's hair brush dipped in common flour paste. Great care and neatness is required in this work, not to apply too much moisture, and with a bit of fine rag to press down the leaf or leaves in the natural form of the plant; it must not be twisted or distorted into any stiff figure, as much of the merit of the work depends on preserving the exact appearance of the plant. Many kinds of flowers can also be preserved in the same way by carefully disposing the petals and leaflets between sheets of blotting paper, and submitting them to considerable pressure. A box filled with stones is a good press, but a screw linen press is best if it can be had. Specimens thus preserved, when dry enough, should be pasted down and the stalks secured by a slip of common adhesive plaster placed across in one or two places very neatly. The botanical and common name may be written in one corner, or a list with figures appended as reference kept with the specimens. The ferns are easier to preserve than flowers; therefore I would recommend them to young beginners.

**PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM.**—*Mandrake or May Apple.*—This was the first indigenous fruit that I saw in Canada; it attracted my attention on my first journey through the woods. I noticed, growing by the side of the road at the edge of the forest, a plant with two large palmate leaves, between the axils of which hung a yellow oblong fruit, about the size of a *Magnum Bonum* plum. The man who drove the horses told me it was good to eat, and alighted and plucked it for me, advising me to throw away the thick outer skin. The fruit was over ripe, and there was a rank flavor that I didn't quite relish. I have since become better acquainted with the plant, and as there are many things about it deserving of notice, I will give a description of it for the information of those persons who have had less time to study it.

The roots of the May Apple are used by the Indians as a cathartic; they are reticulated. It is curious to see a bed of them laid open, and to observe the way in which they interlace each other like an extensive net-work. They are white, about the thickness of a finger, spreading horizontally beneath the surface of the soil. From every articulation a bud sprouts up, forming the leaf stem. The single leaves produce no fruit,—most probably they are the first year's growth; possibly it is from the second year's shoot that the fruit-bearing stem rises. I have often wondered if the May Apple has attracted the attention of the horticulturists. Could the fruit be improved by artificial culture?