

### Fire-side Selections.

#### The Snow.

I stood gazing from the window,  
On the fleecy snow  
Falling—falling—ever falling,  
Solemnly and slow;  
And I felt that downy stillness  
To be more sublime  
Than thunder—flakes like ages  
In the lapse of time!  
Bright sun! blue skies! Now the orchard  
Hath no air of gloom;  
White-clothed, down-weighed branches seeming  
Laden with summer bloom:  
Not a shroud! an elder mantle,  
Shielding earth from storm,  
Is the friendly snow; it keepeth  
Flower and grass-blade warm.  
So with chilly biting trials,  
Rightly understood;  
God, eye watching those that love him,  
Worketh all for good.

A. G. SYMINGTON.

#### The Language of Flowers.

In our younger days in sparking, flirting, or courting time, we were pleased to give and receive little bouquets of flowers, to and from young ladies. We do not doubt but lots of boys and girls will be highly pleased to amuse themselves in a similar manner. We therefore give the meaning of some of the varieties that are found in many of our farmers' gardens. We take a few from a neat little book which we procured in Rochester; the book may be purchased by sending us one new subscriber, or 30 cents; we do not intend in this paper to give you more than a quarter of the names contained in it; it also contains a list of terms and flowers to represent them, poetry, &c., &c.; this will be very pleasing and even refining to our little class of boys and girls.

Acacia, *Locust Tree*—Elegance.  
African Marigold—Cruelty.  
Amaranth, globe—Immortality. Unfading love.  
Antirrhinum, *Snapdragon*,—Deception. I have been flattered with false hopes.  
Apple blossom—Preference.  
Apple (fruit),—Temptation.  
Arbor Vitæ,—Thy friend until death.  
Ash,—Grandeur.  
Ash, Mountain,—With me you are safe.  
Aster, garden,—Afterthought.  
Bachelor's Button,—Celibacy. Single blessedness.  
Balm of Gilead,—Cure. Relief. You have cured my pain.  
Balsam,—Impatient. Touch me not.  
Barberry,—Sharpness of temper.  
Bartonia aurea,—False pretensions. All is not gold that glistens.  
Beech,—Prosperity.  
Birch,—Meekness.  
Black Hellebore,—Relieve my anxiety.  
Bramble,—Envy.  
Branch of Thorns,—Severity. Rigor.  
Broken Straw,—Dissension. Rupture.  
Broom Corn,—Industry.  
Bud of White Rose,—A heart ignorant of love.  
Burdock,—Importunity.  
Buttercup,—Riches.  
Calliopsis,—Vanity.  
Camellia Japonica, red,—Admiration.  
Camellia Japonica, white,—Perfected loveliness.  
Canna, *Indian Shot*,—Vindictiveness. Retaliation.  
Candytuft,—Indifference.  
Carnation, red—Alas! for my poor heart.  
Carnation, striped—Refusal.  
Carnation yellow—Disdain.  
Castor-oil Plant,—Detestation.  
Catchfly,—I am a willing prisoner.  
Cedar,—Endurance. Fidelity.  
Celosia cristata, *Cocks-Comb*,—You are a fop.  
Chamomile,—Fortitude. Cheerfulness in adversity.  
Cherry blossoms,—Native charms.  
Chestnut,—Do me justice.  
Chicory,—Frugality.  
Chickweed,—Let us meet again.

Chickweed, mouse-ear,—Simplicity.  
Chinese Pink,—Perseverance. Repulsed but not in despair.  
Chrysanthemum, rose or red—Love.  
Chrysanthemum, yellow—slighted love.  
Chrysanthemum, white—Truth.  
Cineraria,—Always delightful.  
Clarkia,—The variety of your conversation delights me.  
Clover, four-leaved,—Be mine.  
Clover, red—Industry.  
Clover, white—Think of me.  
Cockscomb,—You are a fop.  
Convolvulus major, blue,—Bonds.  
Convolvulus major, pink,—Worth and affection.  
Convolvulus minor, Repose. Night.  
Coreopsis,—Always cheerful.  
Corn,—Riches.  
Corn, broken—Quarrel.  
Corn Cockle,—Gentility.  
Cress,—Stability.  
Crocus, garden,—Cheerfulness.  
Currants,—You please me.  
Daisy, red,—Unconscious beauty.  
Daisy, white,—Innocence.  
Daisy, wild,—I will think of it.  
Daisy, ox-eye,—Disappointment.  
Dandelion,—Smiling on all. Coquetry.  
Dead leaves,—Sadness.  
Dianthus barbatus, *Sweet William*,—Gallantry.  
Dianthus Chinensis, *Chinese Pink*,—Perseverance.  
Repulsed, but not in despair.  
Dogwood,—False pretensions.  
Elder,—Compassion.  
Elm, American,—Patriotism.  
Everlasting Flower,—Never-ceasing remembrance.  
Everlasting Pea,—Lasting pleasure.  
Evening Primrose—Inconstancy.  
Flax,—Domestic Industry.  
Forget me not,—True love.  
Four-o'clock,—Timidity.  
Foxglove,—Insincerity.  
French Marigold,—Jealousy.  
Fuchsia,—Proposal of marriage.  
Geranium, Ivy-leaved—Bridal decoration.  
Geranium, Oak-leaved,—True friendship.  
Gooseberry,—Anticipation.  
Grape, wild—Charity.  
Grass,—Submission. Utility.  
Hawthorn,—Hope.  
Heliotrope,—Devotion.  
Hellebore,—Scandal. Calumny.  
Hemp,—Fate.  
Hibiscus,—Delicate beauty.  
Hoarhound,—Imitation.  
Hollyhock,—Ambition.  
Honeysuckle,—Faithful affection.  
Hop,—Injustice.  
Horse Chestnut,—Luxury.  
Houseleek,—Domestic economy.  
Hyacinth, purple,—Sorrow.  
Hyacinth, red and rose,—Sport. Game. Play.  
Hyacinth, white,—Unobtrusive loveliness.  
Hyacinth, yellow—Jealousy.  
Ice Plant,—Frigidity. Your looks freeze me.  
Ironwood,—Ornament.  
Larch,—Austerity. Boldness.  
Larkspur, pink and white—Fickleness.  
Larkspur, purple—Haughtiness.  
Lavender,—Confession of love.  
Lettuce,—Cold-hearted.  
Lilac,—First love.  
Lily, chequered—Persecution.  
Lily, water—Purity of heart.  
Lily, white—Purity. Sweetness.  
Lily, yellow—False and gay.

To be continued.

#### Flannels for Children.

In this cold weather mothers should see to it that the flannel wardrobes for the younger members of the family are in order, ready to put on these sudden frosty morning, thus warding off many an attack of croup, or violent cold or sore throat. The younger the children the more imperative is the necessity for this care of them; the older members of the family will generally importune, if necessary, and their wants will be supplied; but sometimes amid the hurry and driving of work the little helpless ones who, in their ignorance have no knowledge of their needs, are put off from day to day until a sudden frost bights them, as it does the flowers, and they fade from sight.

READING Milton is like dining off gold plate in a company of kings; very splendid, very ceremonious, and not a little appalling.

#### The Cow Tree.

On the parched side of a rock on the mountains of Venezuela, grows a tree with dry and leathery foliage, its large, woody roots scarcely penetrating into the ground. For several months in the year its leaves are not moistened by a shower—Its branches look as if they were dead and withered; but, when this trunk is bored, a bland of nourishing milk flows from it. It is at sunrise that the vegetable fountain flows most freely. At that time the blacks and natives are seen coming from all parts, provided with large bowls to receive the milk, which flows yellow and thickens at its surface. Some empty their vessels on the spot, while others carry them to their children. One imagines he sees the family of a shepherd who is distributing the milk of his flock. It is named the *palo de vaca*, or cow tree.

#### Pigs and Snakes.

A farmer living on the west side of the Ohio river, a short time since in walking about his farm, discovered a nest of rattlesnakes in a hollow bark of an old tree, about which several large pieces of rock were scattered. Our friend had heard that pigs were hostile to snakes of all kinds; and not caring to attack the nest himself, he thought he would try the experiment, and a fight. He drove several pigs in the vicinity to the nest, and watched the result. The pigs soon seemed to scent the reptiles, and commenced rooting eagerly about the spot. In an instant half a dozen of the vicious reptiles emerged from their places to attack the intruders, who manifested a zealous disposition to give battle. A snake would rear himself to the height of the back of the pig, shake his rattle, and plunge his fangs into the animal with lightning-like celerity, and then dart away, pushed by the pig, who dexterously received the sting upon the fleshy part of the jaw. Over and over again this would be repeated, until the pig got his fore foot upon the snake, when he would deliberately rip the reptile in twain, and then devour him. This slaughter continued until all the snakes were disposed of, when the pigs grunted contentedly, and without any signs of being disturbed, waddled off in search of other provender. The eye-witness to this singular contest, which was not without its exciting features, declares himself convinced that a pig is impervious to the poisonous bite of any kind of serpent.

GREAT WORKS are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

SPARE minutes are mighty laborers if kept to their work. They overthrow or build up, enrich or impoverish a man.

THE word "home"—lively to all—is perhaps never felt in the fullness of its peaceful beauty except by the homeless.

AVARICE in old age, is foolish; for what can be more absurd than to increase our provisions for the road, the nearer we approach our journey's end?

BAD company is like a nail driven into a post, which after the first or second blow may be drawn out with little difficulty; but being once driven up to the head, the pinners cannot take hold to draw it out, but which can only be done by the destruction of the wood.

THE success of individuals in life is greatly owing to their early learning to depend upon their own resources. Money, or the expectation of it by inheritance, has ruined more men than the want of it ever did. Teach young men to rely upon their own efforts, to be frugal and industrious, and you have furnished them with a productive capital which no man can ever wrest from them.

TO MUSIC we are indebted for one of the purest and most refined pleasures that the bounty of heaven has permitted to cheer the heart of man. As it softly steals upon our ear, it lulls to rest all the passions that invade our bosom, arrests our roving fancy, or, in louder strains, excites the soul to rage. Often, when wrapped in melancholy, the sweet voice of music charms away our cares, and restores our drooping spirits.

A JAPANESE HOUSE.—A Japanese house consists of one entire apartment, divided by temporary and movable screens, which are placed in such positions as to divide it into as many rooms as the owner may wish, and, which he can change at any time without interfering with the structure of the main building. They have no chimneys, for they never have a fire in their houses, except in a little movable sand filled box, where they boil their tea and warm their hands with ignited charcoal or fine pieces of pine wood.

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