

at all the destinies of the race; but the role played by the rose, if we may consider the good influences exerted by it, in this way, has always been beneficent or interesting, and to such an extent is this true that it is quite easy to divide this influence into various phases.

One of the very pleasing minor duties of the rose has been to hand on to us, as it were, a little series of biographical or historical notes on those personages who have had their names immortalized through association with the "queen of flowers." One instance will be sufficient perhaps to indicate what is meant. It may be best given in the form of a story of one of the most prized of the older roses; it is a dainty story of a notable rose from France. "When Niel, a brave French general, was returning from the scene of his victories in the war between France and Austria, he received from a peasant, who wished to honor the hero, a basket of beautiful pale yellow roses. One of the stems, which happened to have a root clinging to it, the general took to a florist in Paris, in whose care it remained until it became a thriving bush covered with blossoms. Niel then took the plant as a gift to the Empress Eugenie. She expressed great admiration for the exquisite flowers and on learning that the rose was nameless said significantly "Then I will name it. It shall be 'The Marechal Niel' and at the same moment she bestowed upon the astonished general the jeweled baton that betokened his promotion to the high office of Marechal of France."

Lord Penzance, who has given us some beautiful brier roses, will be remembered as a great lawyer, but much as law may do to carry his name down the pages of history, his rose creations will do much more. William Allen Richardson is an unknown entity, but known in literature because his name became that of a rose, and Dorothy Perkins, Mrs. John Laing, and many others are names which will be household words for many years at least because their possessors loved the rose.

The only other minor role of the rose which we shall mention is one which is of greater interest to those interested in it from the botanical and historical standpoints than it is to the average grower. Botanists well know that the rose is native only to the temperate parts of this world; they also know that we have about nine species native to this country. The genus *Rosa* is not large, Gray mentions only fifteen species. Great Britain and Denmark claim about twenty species. The interesting part about these native species is that in working with them the hybridist found that they responded in a remarkable way to cross-fertilization. Until the year 1867 new roses other than the original species were few in number and mostly plants of chance. When, however, about that date a Mr. Bennett, in