

nia. This plant is known under all the names of *Pitcher Plant*, *Side Saddle Flower*, and *Saracen's Head*. It abounds in Canada, being found in the Isle Jesus, Boucherville, St. Henri, Chateauguay, and grows in mossy morasses or swamps. It blossoms in June and July. It is impossible to mistake this singular and wonderful plant for any other. Our correspondent need have no fear on this score. Its urn-shaped leaves surrounding the flower stalk, and springing from the root by a thin narrow strip which forms the stem, expand into a large vase-shaped leaf, which is often filled with water. To this flies and insects are attracted, and when once they enter this wonderful structure it is never to return, the old proverb, "*facile descensus*," being fully exemplified. The curved form of the leaf prevents the fly from rising on the wing after he has satisfied his appetite, and if he attempts to walk he finds the entrance of his leaf prison bristling with spikes which he did not perceive on entering, as they were all directed inwards, but which now throw him back. After repeated trials he sinks exhausted to the bottom of the pit, and becomes the food of the plant. In all the leaves there will be found the remains of insects, and from this it is sometimes called "*le cimetière des mouches*." The root of the plant is very small, and when dried is of a reddish brown. It would require a large quantity of the plants to produce an ounce. Both the leaves and roots are used in medicine, having been recommended by an army surgeon in Halifax, who derived his knowledge of the value of this remedy in small-pox from the Mic-macs. The Indians in this part of Canada, we are informed, although very familiar with the plant, never use it for any purpose except as a remedy in children's diseases. The plant should be gathered in June, when about to flower, if the leaf is desired, or if the root, then in September. The leaves should be cut open, washed and carefully dried, after which they should be kept in a bottle. The demand for the plant is constantly increasing, and, if it is found as valuable as it is represented, it will doubtless become an article of export from Canada.—*Montreal Herald*.

2. THE TEA-PLANT A NATIVE OF CANADA.

The following letter, addressed to the Editor of the *Canadian Champion*, Milton, appears in the last issue of that paper: "Sir,—A few weeks ago, when I transmitted to you a communication, for which you were so obliging as to make room in your columns, suggesting the possibility of growing the sugar-cane and the coffee-tree in Canada, and the probability of successfully raising cotton too, during the present scarcity of that article in the European markets; I hinted at the likelihood of the genuine tea-shrub being yet found to be a native of the Province. Little, indeed, did I then anticipate that this last conjecture was to be so speedily verified; but an article intimating the fact, has just appeared in '*Le Pays*' of Montreal, (20th Jan. 1864,) and of that article the following is a translation:—it will however, be proper to premise, that the general term 'Indies,' (des Indes,) is in French, held to comprehend China:

"The Tea-plant of the Indies in Canada.—According to M. L. N. Gouveau of Isle-Verte, it appears that Canada possesses the genuine tea-plant of the Indies in abundance. A Trappist, seeing a shrub which grows in Kamouraska in great plenty, immediately exclaimed—'That is the veritable tea-plant of the Indies.' This tea, which grows freely in our lower grounds, by the sides of ditches, can easily be prepared so as to furnish a supply, in place of that imported from China, which has become so costly within the last two years. The *Gazette des Campagnes* gives an engraving of the plant."

While entertaining not the least doubt of the practicability of growing cotton to good purpose in some of our townships, at least during the existing dearth of that article, there can be no harm at any time in looking to a substitute. Take then the following extract, made some twelve or fifteen years since, when perusing a United States periodical:

"Mae, or Chinese grass, answers the purpose of silk and hemp combined. It grows in dry, hilly soil, and in every variety of climate. It is worked into almost every description of fabric—in the largest cables, and in the choicest texture of luxurious clothing. Like silk, it is an article of universal consumption. It is rarely exported."

Could the attention of some of the medical staff, or others attached to our troops, at present employed on the coasts and rivers of China, be directed to this plant, it might be the means of causing a beneficial revolution in many of the present transactions, whether in agriculture or manufactures. Yours, &c., W. C.

3. LOGWOOD AS AN ANTISEPTIC.

Dr. W. N. Cote, the intelligent Paris correspondent of the *British American Journal*, says in a recent communication: "Your readers may recollect the interest excited among professional men when Mr. Demeaux discovered the antiseptic qualities of coal-tar, a

mixture of which with plaster being applied to the most fetid sores will at once dispel one of the most offensive smell, and at the same time contribute to the speedy cure of the part affected. The Academy of Sciences has now received a paper from Dr. Desmatis, announcing that logwood or campeachy (*Hæmatoxylon Campeachianum*) possesses the same valuable property, and in a much higher degree.

VI. Papers on the School Premises.

1. ORNAMENTING SCHOOL GROUNDS.

At first sight this may seem a trivial matter to talk about, but after careful consideration there is more in it than perhaps most teachers have ever been aware of. If we are to judge of the æsthetic culture and emotions by the application of æsthetic talent—and there is perhaps no better method of judging—what would be the decree pronounced on most teachers and directors, by a scrutinizing critic of our school houses and grounds?

All the school-houses and grounds in the country are susceptible of more or less improvement, in an æsthetic point of view. It becomes us then as teachers of the young, to give our aid in ornamenting with trees, shrubbery and flowers the school grounds, for the gratification and pleasure of those under our instruction, as well as for the gratification of the community in which we labor. We know that there are many teachers in the State, but we hope not in this country, who are either too lazy or uninterested, or ponder too much over their pecuniary interests, to even lend a thought to this important subject; and even were their thoughts to revert to it for a moment, they would, when the work and money stared them in the face, turn away from it in disgust and leave the work unaccomplished. Such teachers have mistaken their calling. They may have the scholarship, but they have not the spirit of a true teacher.

The position of the school-house, of course has not much to do with the number and nature of the ornaments to be placed around it. There are houses to be met with in almost all sections of the State which are either perched up among rocks and briars on the apex of a hill, or down in the midst of the mire and miasma of a swamp; yet even here there may be something done. No matter how desolate and uncomfortable a place the school-house may occupy there is room for improvement. The very rocks may be converted into ornaments. The swamps may be drained, and healthy dry land secured as the result, which is then just in proper condition to be beautified. These out of the way places are the very ones where ornament is most required, to make the school ground a pleasant and inviting place.

It is in the power of every one to procure a few shade trees and some shrubbery to place in the school grounds. The cost is no consideration, inasmuch as they can be secured almost everywhere free of expense; and where this is not the case, a dollar or two contributed by the teacher, or collected by the pupils, will purchase all the trees required. Linden, Maple and Ash are among the most beautiful; but if these are not to be obtained, secure the most ornamental of other kinds to be had.

It was our lot some twelve years ago, to attend a country school known as the "Old Sandstone." The school-house was rather rude in structure, and occupied a position on slight elevation surrounded by a few oak and hickory trees. The appearance of both interior and exterior was rather uninviting than otherwise. A new teacher came, and after becoming acquainted with the pupils, he made a proposition to ornament and beautify the old school-house and the grounds surrounding it. The whole school accordingly eagerly fell to work collecting funds and materials. Several afternoons were devoted to the work of improvement, and in a few months both interior and exterior of the old house were carefully white-washed; a neat lattice fence surrounded the house; flower borders were made and filled with flowers; shrubbery was planted within the enclosure; the heretofore barren grounds were carefully covered with sod; and the whole thing presented such an altered appearance, that even its nearest neighbor scarcely recognized the "Old Sandstone" in its home-like dress. All the work, with the exception of a few half days, was accomplished during the time of recess and in the morning before school. A small portion of the flower border was allotted to each of the larger pupils, who in the main performed the work, and all felt an interest in the preservation of the flowers and shrubbery, and the maintenance of the general beauty of the house. It was merely a common district school, but common as it was, all felt a pride and interest in adding to its neat and cozy appearance.

There is something about the appearance of an American farm house always more or less inviting, however rugged the appearance of the house itself. Such should always be the case with our public and private school-house. The more home-like the place, the more