

SOUVENIRS OF SUMMER DAYS

By William Martin Johnson

ILLUSTRATOR OF "BEN HUR," "THE CLOISTER AND THE HEARTH," ETC.

ENTHUSIASM for art work is the cause of much futile effort and consequent disappointment to many whose equipment in technical knowledge is slight or whose natural ability does not lie in the direction of drawing or painting. The young woman attempting for the first time to sketch from Nature usually selects for her subject a magnificent stretch of country, with a mountain-side, perhaps presenting the most difficult problems, and the result is inevitable failure. Were she to expend



knowledge, is a source of delight, but for a second choice let us consider the photograph, supplemented by the plant forms to be found. They exist all around and about us if we will but look for them—we may have trodden them under foot even. Could anything bring back more vividly the scene than these living things, identified, as they are, with the very ground upon which we stand?

A collection of wild flowers gathered in the vicinity of Ontonagon, Michigan, a town on the shore of Lake Superior, by Helen Woodworth Paul, comes to us, which is of

Where it is desirable to keep a permanent record of the forms of leaf or flower the process invented by M. Bertot, of the French Academy of Sciences, can be utilized. A sheet of ordinary thin paper is oiled on one side, and folded with the oiled side out. The plant is placed between the folds of the paper, and gently pressed all over with the hand. This will induce a small quantity of oil to ooze through the pores of the paper and adhere to the leaves. The plant is then placed between two sheets of clean paper and pressed again—some judgment being required to



the same amount of energy in recording an impression of some simple object her success might be sufficient to stimulate her to further effort, and ultimately she might become proficient. But to the more humble devotees of art there are ways open for the expression of æsthetic impulses which require but simple ingenuity and a sympathetic touch to produce interesting and beautiful effects.

The amateur photographer is a much maligned individual, and in a large degree has brought the odium upon himself. Pursued by an inordinate greed of possessing plates of noted people and places he has developed the traits of a detective, and plies his vocation with impertinence. Whereas, when impelled by artistic motives photography becomes a dignified and praiseworthy means of recreation. Material is abundant and accessible to all without the necessity of giving offense or



prevent any surplus oil from spreading on the clean sheets of paper. A powder consisting of resin (only a small proportion) and any dry pigment, or even black lead pencil dust, is sprinkled over the sheets of paper which have received the impression of the flower. The image of the plant will remain clearly defined after the superfluous powder is shaken off. To fix the impression indelibly, warm the paper sufficiently to melt the resin, and your record is complete for future use and future reference.

In mounting the photographs it is advisable to stick the upper two corners only, leaving the lower edge free, otherwise the prints would be apt to skrink or cockle. When an elaborate result is desired cut an opening in a piece of cardboard the shape required, and place it over the picture. Affix the plant forms to this improvised mat, and with water-color supplement



great value, as an instance of our suggestion. Each specimen is pressed, mounted and classified according to Gray's Manual of Botany, and is ingeniously arranged by the collector. Each page bears some appropriate quotation. Aside from the interest of the

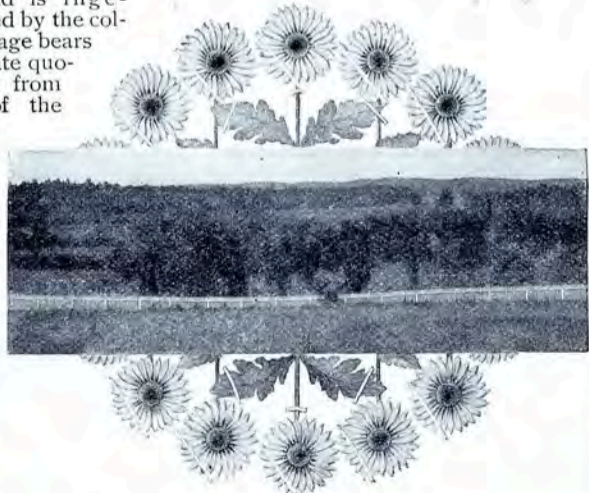


making one's self a nuisance. Commonplace subjects treated from an original point of view become unique and oftentimes artistic. The manipulation of the plate, the judicious timing of exposure and peculiar conditions of light and shade are the resources of the amateur in photography. In other words, it is the temperament and experience of the operator rather than the material before the camera which gives the artistic result.

Many incidents occur during the summer vacation the remembrance of which would be pleasurably intensified by some souvenir. The sketch, provided it be executed with



In the arrangement, as shown in our illustrations, of these leaves and flowers mounted together with the photograph on a card or in an album, great ingenuity and skill are possible. Decoration from the earliest time has been based upon natural



moment, the collection is of great value in suggesting themes for embroidery.

the natural flowers by skillful painting. Marvelously pretty effects may thus be obtained, which, if framed in *passepartout*, make pretty and very inexpensive decorations for bedroom walls, or for the walls of a seashore cottage, where anything at all resembling a flower is rest and refreshment to the eye. These souvenirs of summer travel in field, valley or mountain-side will serve, also, as a solace to weary invalids shut up inside of sick-rooms and far away from the green fields where

"The primrose eyes each morning open
In their cool deep beds of grass."