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## LADIES' CORNER.

THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES.—A late English journal has a very appreciative article on the women of this country, a part of which we copy here.

"Few women," it says, "are more charming in all the relations of life than those who are denizens of Yankeeeland. As wives they are affectionate and considerate. If, remembering that they are the children of a land of liberty and equality, they object to promise *obedience* at the altar, they are not the less ready to fulfill their understood obligations. No mother can be more tender and watchful of the welfare of their children; no sisters can be more loving and disinterested; and if, as daughters, they decline to accept of advice or guidance in their little matrimonial arrangements—"guessing" that they know best who will make them a good husband—they are not less anxious than Mrs. Candle to have 'dear mother' come and live with them. It is rare that widowed mothers, or even the old couple, are not to be found domesticated with the married offspring. Then, as companions, they are intelligent, frank, and courteous. Their hospitalities are gracefully rendered; and if a demand is made upon their friendship, few can be more generous and confiding.

"It is unnecessary to say that, in the United States, every body is educated. The public schools are open gratuitously to all classes of citizens, and it would be considered a sin and a disgrace if a parent did not compel his children to

attend the courses of instruction. But, indeed, no compulsion is necessary. At a very early age children discover that school is a pastime; then it grows into a matter of emulation; and as years advance, the value of knowledge becomes as apparent as its possession is felt to be agreeable. That the citizens of both sexes may have a fair start in life, no distinction whatever is made in the kind of education given at the national establishments. The daughter of a wealthy merchant, or lawyer in large practice, occupies no higher position than the poor ragged child of the Irish emigrant. Personal cleanliness is a *sine qua non* of the daily admittance of each pupil, but the quality of the garment is no bar to the occupation of a front place in the school, provided that the little candidate for scholastic honors has aptitude and application. Pride of birth thus receives an early rebuke, proper sympathy is evoked, and a fraternization established, which has a potent influence in enlarging the charities of life at a later period. The 'school-mate' is rarely forgotten. Indeed, the 'school-mate' of the richest lady in the land will often work out a position for herself, to which the possession of wealth alone offers no parallel in a country where intellect is honored. To become a school-teacher is an object of serious ambition with vast numbers of girls, and as there is no royal road to the distinction, close application to the prescribed studies is indispensable, and, of course, the student in time is fitted to occupy the highest place in society. Many of the first men in the land seek their life-companions among the educators. The singular perversity which, in aristocratic England, leads men to think it disgraceful to marry a governess, and which condemns the lady intrusted with the cultivation of the minds and manners of children to a position scarcely removed above that of the menial, and often paid at a lower rate than a *femme de chambre*, is totally unknown in America. People are measured there by an intellectual and moral standard, and happiness is more frequently found to spring from the union of persons of congenial tastes and pursuits, than from the vulgar, but too common, combination of wealth and insipidity.

"The education of the American lady, combined with her peculiarly nervous organization, renders her highly poetical in conception and execution. Her fancy, her constant communings with her own heart, her love of nature in its grandeur and its simplicity, her attachment to domestic life, her piety, her sympathy with her kin, and her earnest patriotism, supply her with a fund of poetical ideas, while her facility of composition, her familiarity with the greatest poets of England and America, and her aspirations after literary distinction, impart the capacity to express her sentiments in appropriate verse. Even her prose compositions are poetical; hence her hearty appreciation of the works of the gifted writers of all nations. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Hemans, and Jean Ingelow, are household deities in the homes of the States. Hence, for every poetess adorning English literature, there are ten in America.

"With all her predilections, however, for the æsthetics of life, the American woman is eminently practical. In the Southern States the ladies took a considerable share in the government of the plantations, and looked with affectionate solicitude after the material welfare of the slaves. In the North the lady is the prudent and active *menagere*. Indeed, she had need to be so, for the domestic servants, which are, for the most part, Irish importations from the old country, are more of a trouble and a plague than a 'help.' Ignorant and exacting, they require a large amount of patient training, and a skillful combination of indulgence with discipline, before they can be rendered useful and reliable. Cookery, to this hour, in the smaller towns of the States is in its infancy. Baking, boiling, and broiling, are the sole agents for the conversion of fish, flesh, fowl, and vegetables into human edibles. The delicate operations of roasting and

stewing, exalted by a Francatelli, an Ude, and a Soyer into sublime arts, are scarcely understood in Yankee land. In the manufacture of 'breads' the American lady is without a rival. The wheaten flour of the country is peculiarly fine and abundant; and Indian corn supplies an addition to the farinaceous delicacies of the table almost unknown in our homesteads. Their tea and supper-tables are incomparable for the profusion of appetising dainties with which they are covered, and which are pressed upon the visitor with unaffected hospitality.

"While the beauty of an American woman lasts, it is exquisitely delicate and attractive. The proudest salons in Europe cannot surpass Yankee ball-rooms in their assemblages of youthful loveliness. The motions of well-bred American girls are instinct with grace, and their natural hilarity is under the control of a winning modesty. If they dress with somewhat less taste than the Parisians, it is because they follow too literally the pictorial illustrations of *Le Follet*, and are under no conventional restraints. The Prince of Wales and his suite are said to have been greatly pleased with the *coups d'œil* presented at the grand fetes given in honor of his royal highness at New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. An excess of *parure* was not out of place, and the joyfulness of the occasion imparted a charming expression to every countenance.

"In a word, the American lady is an honor to the sex; and we would desire no worse punishment for those who allow their prejudices to warp their judgment, than a six months' residence among the good families of Massachusetts and Philadelphia, and a fair share of the hospitalities the ladies so well know how to dispense."

#### HORTICULTURAL.

**OUR NATIVE CLIMBERS.**—There are indigenous to our woods and fields many very beautiful climbers or twining plants, which, in common with most native plants, have been overlooked in the passion for new exotics, and meet with unmerited neglect.

These plants impart the greatest charm to our woodland scenery, twining up the tall trees and robing them in green; converting dead boughs into a drapery of delicate foliage; hiding gnarled roots and fallen trunks, and by fantastic twining from bush to bush, contributing to the endless varieties of light and shade which make one of the chief beauties of our forest scenery. How bare our stone walls and rough fences would look deprived of the drapery of woodbine and blackberry; and what sweet odors would be lost to the air did not the wild grape fling its broad foliage alike over the barren rocks and the tallest trees.

There is nothing which so adds to the appearance of a country house as a judicious planting of climbing plants. Any one can call to mind the bare, desolate aspect of a cottage with no trees, shrubs, or vines around it, and the improvement made when walls and piazzas are draped with graceful foliage, and a few fine trees and shrubs judiciously planted.

The many objections urged against climbers have rather an apparent than real foundation. Unless allowed to grow too luxuriantly, they neither injure the buildings or make them damp; and the little dirt from dropping leaves and flowers is more than compensated for in grateful shade and beauty of bloom.

Suppose the wild-brier, which decks all the hedges in June; the clematis, conspicuous for fragrant white flowers and wavy seeds; the staff-tree, or wax-work, so ornamental with fragrant blossoms in June and scarlet fruit in autumn; the grape, with fragrant flowers, ample foliage, and purple fruit; the Virginia creeper flaming with the touch of autumnal frost, were transplanted to the farmer's house, allowed to clamber at will over doors and windows, or even

to surmount the eaves, would they not give a charm to the house; remove the barren look; relieve the glaring paint or weather-stained boards by a border of nature's own painting, and be a grateful shelter from the rays of the summer sun?

And to accomplish this much-to-be-desired end, it is not necessary for our farmers to spend their hard-earned gains. The fine exotic climbers which are imported at great expense, though beautiful and desirable, are in many cases far inferior to those inhabiting our highways and hedges, and have the disadvantage of being often too tender to endure the severity of our winters. The expense of climbers need only be the time necessary to transplant them, and prepare a place for their reception.

The drills need not be of wire, nor does it require a carpenter's bill for the completion. A cedar-tree, with the branches cut off about a foot from the trunk, and tall enough to allow it to stand a foot above the door after setting it two feet in the ground, is needed—and the woods will supply it. Place one of these on each side of the door, setting them three to four feet out; arch a cross-piece from top to top; slope others from this to the house, and fill in the sides between the house and the posts with pieces of the boughs, disposed in squares, diamonds, or triangles, according to fancy, and you have a very pretty rustic trellis. Leave the bark on it; it adds to the effect. If in a few years it peels off and becomes ragged, you will then have the trellis covered with vines.

If, however, a smooth trellis is preferred, remove the bark, trim off the knots, and give a coating of red ochre or asphaltum varnish, which will preserve the wood and prevent the lodgment of insects. The portion of the post beneath the ground should be charred, to prevent decay. For a window, a smaller trellis on the same plan may be made; and for grass plats or the garden, the posts alone may be used—and they are very ornamental covered with vines. If an arched trellis is built over the gate, and vines twined along the fence, they add greatly to the attraction of the place.

The soil required for most climbers is a common loam, enriched with well-rotted manure.

The species of climbers obtainable, vary in different localities; but there are very few spots where some may not be procured with but little trouble. Let each choose those which are most obtainable.

As a general rule, transplant in the spring; the only argument in favor of fall planting is, that at the latter season there is less pressing work.—*Horticulturalist*.

#### PARLOR AMUSEMENTS.

**THE MOLE.**—This simple game consists merely in saying to one of the players—

"Have you seen my mole?"

The latter answers, "Yes, I have seen your mole."

"Do you know what my mole is doing?"

"Yes, I do know what your mole is doing."

"Can you do as it does?"

The person who replies must shut his eyes at each answer; if he fails to do so he pays a forfeit.

**I HAVE JUST COME FROM SHOPPING.**—The company form a circle, and one of the party who compose it, says to her right-hand neighbor, "I have just come from shopping."

"What have you bought?" rejoins the latter. "A robe, a vest, stockings, flowers;" in fine, anything that comes into the purchaser's head, provided that, in uttering the words, she can touch an object similar to the one she names. Those who neglect to do this must pay a forfeit. A forfeit can be required also from any one who names an object which has been named by any player previously.

**THE COOK WHO LIKES NO PEAS.**—The leader of the game must put the following question to his right-hand neighbor, and also to all the players in succession.