

WOMAN is composed of an infinitude of "littles." Let us console ourselves, my sisters; the infinitely little, the infinitely great—everything, is for the glory of God.

Do not tell me that with little nothing can be done. The "infinitely littles" are kings of the universe.

To unfurl the standard too frequently in times of peace is to risk letting it fall in times of war.

A TRUTH isolated from truths, which are its complement, is false to Truth.

THOUGHT is a restive horse. Yes; but don't you know how such animals are managed? A bit is put between their teeth, and they are made to work.

We prefer to *hate* ourselves rather than to *forget* ourselves.

LOOK to your feet, you who ride Fancy. You will find more sheaves to bind than your arms can carry.

It is not in loving the creature less that the Creator is loved better. It is not in impoverishing existence that Eternity is enriched.

HAVE you once given pleasure to anyone? You know what happiness is!

HE who takes wing risks a fall. He who crawls along the earth wounds himself against the stones, is caught by the thorns, and soiled by the mire.

NOTHING makes the beauty of action so felt as *acting*.

ALL by the power of God; nothing without our effort.

As we approach the summit, the breath which has kissed the snows puts energy into our hearts.

ODIOUS philosophy—that of submission, without faith, to the tyrannies of reality.

THROUGH love, faith; through faith, prayer; through prayer, conquest.

THE Bible, eternally young, responds eternally to the eternal needs of the soul.

WHAT is a principle? A truth which, once recognised, imposes obligation.

To wish for a star is childhood's pretty folly. Yet he who has not suffered from this malady will never seize the coveted treasure, be it but a glow-worm.

To say, "I have deceived myself," belongs only to the strong. It is the *strongest* act of strength.

THE soul is made for great love, even as the bird for the immensities of the air.

It is not in loving less those I love; it is not in retiring within myself; it is not in mutilating, under the pretence of pruning, that I would practise Christian resignation. Resignation the product of calculation? Never! Love alone produces submission.

DWELL on earth, and nourish yourself with truth.

PLEASANT WORK FOR THE AUTUMN.



Y object in writing this article is to bring before the readers of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER the art of pressing and drying ferns and grasses for decorative purposes, which may be brought to a great pitch of perfection with a comparatively small amount of care and trouble; and the result is ample payment for time spent.

No one need be debarred from taking up this work by monetary difficulties, as the only thing needed is a *pressing-block*. Many elaborate ones may be bought, but a simple one will answer every purpose. Two boards 16×8, 10, or 12, a small cloak strap, and a few sheets of blotting-paper, may be procured for a very small sum, and then you are ready to commence operations. Time need not be a drawback either, as much may be done during a daily constitutional without any effort, so that even the busiest workers or the most idle holiday-makers may lay up treasures for the winter if they choose.

First, then, to collect the specimens, choose a dry day if possible. This season of the year, when ever-changing Nature puts on her most beautiful dress, is the best time for collecting most things, colours are brighter, and the leaves not so full of sap, therefore better for drying purposes.

Green leaves and ferns may be got earlier in the year, but autumn is the great harvest-time for leaves as well as corn, especially after

the first few frosts. Experience is the best guide as to what will press and look well, and of course a great deal depends on how you are situated. Most are within reach of a few bits of "greenery" and an occasional country walk, when you can obtain blackberry leaves, wild geranium, trails of wild vine and hops, ivy, moss, and vetch, while nearer home, in park, garden, or conservatory, you can gather maple, beech, laburnum, large and small virginian creeper, Japanese honeysuckle, wisteria, fancy grasses, and delicate ferns. I mention only a few of the numberless things that may be used. It is wise to choose those plants in which the leaves do not grow too closely together, or overlap each other much.

Few *flowers* keep their colour well when pressed; but wild geranium, harebells, vetch, pimpernel, primrose, water forget-me-not, violets, and the tiny wild yellow poppy, may all be safely experimented with.

All the specimens, when gathered, should be placed between the blotting-paper of the pressing-block, and strapped up tightly till the house is reached; then each leaf or spray should be ironed separately with a *hot* iron between blotting-paper, until all the moisture is pressed out. (This sets the colours, and gives the leaves a smooth, even surface, instead of the crumpled appearance they often present when merely placed under a weight.)

Should any of the stems be very thick, it is better to cut away most of it with a sharp knife, or else lay extra pads of blotting paper under each leaf; and in some cases it will be necessary to press each leaf separately, and afterwards, according to the way in which they are used, either paint in the stems, or mount the leaves with wire on a dry twig or thin strip of bamboo, in such positions as to resemble the natural growth.

After ironing, remove all to fresh blotting-paper, and place under a weight in a warm place. The blotting-paper in which the ironing is done will require renewing pretty often, as it gets hard, and will not absorb the moisture.

The specimens being now ready, the uses to which they may be put are numerous. Cupboard-doors, door-panels, unsightly shutters, white wood, or enamelled frames, sides of book-shelves, small tables, wooden mantelpieces, glass fire-screens, may be all beautified with groups of colour, or sprays of some delicately-tinted creeper.

Many people bring home pleasant remembrances of a holiday in the shape of photographic views. A few leaves and grasses (perhaps gathered at the same spot) grouped lightly round them in an album are a great addition. A spray or two on a mirror or wardrobe glass is also very effective.

But I always think my leaves are most useful and show to the best advantage when used for table decoration. Everyone knows how hard it is sometimes in winter to keep the table well supplied when means do not allow of very frequent visits to the florist's. Everyone also, I think, must know and feel how dainty floral additions on a table are, pleasing to the eye, and set off and improve the simplest, plainest meal. So, by keeping a small stock of dried treasures you can ring the changes, as taste and fancy dictate, on blackberry leaves and grass, virginian creeper and grass, ivy and berries, green ferns and a few everlastings, and many other combinations, according to your collection.

But with all, grasses *may*, and I think *should*, be used, as they give a lighter appearance to leaves, which must of necessity look a trifle stiff and set.

A little frosting (to be had at a stationer's, 2d. per packet) may be added to the edges of ivy and blackberry leaves, and mountain-ash, guelder-rose, holly-berries and rose-hips may be kept for a long time by dipping bunches and stems into a mixture of gum arabic and white wax, strong and hot, in the proportion of four to one.

The grasses are best placed in a wide-mouthed bottle or jug, and allowed to droop naturally till dry. I find thick starch the best means of fixing the leaves on to paper and wood, and a thin coat of copal varnish is a great preservative.

Perhaps to some the above details may be already known, but in a somewhat large acquaintance I have only met *two* girls who pressed leaves for real use. In these go-ahead days many girls only take up work which promises remuneration; but I hope some few who live quiet, uneventful lives may be induced by this paper to fill up spare moments, or gladden a weary hour, by entering on a work which entails a closer search into the beauties of Nature, and will, I am sure, be found a great source of pleasure.

J. A.