

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

## EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHAT IS "VULGARITY?"—One of the stories, in this number, touches on the question of "vulgarity." A woman, about to entertain, is not satisfied to do it naturally, but tries to seem richer than she is, and becomes absurd in consequence.

This being ashamed of comparative poverty is a very common form of "vulgarity." But it is quite as often seen in persons who have rapidly become rich as in persons always poor. Pretension, affectation, or insincerity are their favorite forms of "vulgarity." We all know the millionaire's wife, who is ashamed of having ever been poor; she would faint, or she would go into hysterics, if reminded that she once did her own house-work. Who has not met the rich *parvenu*, who has been to Europe, and who can talk of nothing but the barons, counts and dukes she pretends to have met there? What social circle is without its silly woman, who has become ashamed of her honest ancestors, and tries to prove she is descended from what she calls "noble blood?" Alas! for human nature, it is not the being poor, nor the having been poor, that one should blush at, but the "snobbishness" that looks down on poverty as in itself a crime. Was not the Greatest of all poor? Had He a place "wherein to lay His head?"

The Public Ledger of this city, in a late article, forcibly said that there is no surer proof of "vulgarity" than the eager desire to be considered "genteel." People who engage in this struggle are at bottom conscious that they are "shams." They are in consequence always afraid of being found out; and this leads them to still more strenuous exertions to deceive. They are forever praising themselves and crying down others. Successful merit arouses their enmity, stimulates their malice, excites the fangs of their venomous slander. Whoever is not in their set they snub at and look down upon. But people of real worth, real refinement, real claims to consideration have no need to resort to these base arts. They can afford to rest on their own merits, and do not have to trumpet them to the world. They are not ashamed to consort with poorer neighbors. Nor, if they have risen from poverty themselves, as so many of our really best people have, do they blush for it. They know that in the past, Webster, Jackson, Clay, Calhoun and the first Adams were poor boys, and that hundreds of others, eminent, to-day, in science, statesmanship, literature, commerce and manufactures, were poor boys also.

To pretend to be what you are not is the essence of "vulgarity." To be and not to seem—that is the golden rule

A NEW CONTRIBUTOR FOR 1880.—One of our novelets for 1880 will be rather remarkable. It will be a story by a new contributor, entitled "The Lost Talisman Of Montezuma." It is a frontier tale, and is founded on real incidents. It is, moreover, in a vein entirely new. But this is only part of the intellectual feast we shall provide for our readers in 1880.

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THE BEST TIME to gather ferns is when an early frost has turned the leaves from deepest green to almost white, the delicate contrast forming a valuable contribution to the usually high colors, which characterise autumn leaves proper. It is also an excellent time for collecting wild grasses, and the berries, in clusters, which, combined with the ferns, are arranged in beautiful winter bouquets. The best way to press leaves is to press them between the leaves of old books—carrying one for the purpose on all collecting expeditions, and placing each leaf carefully, seven or eight pages apart, and not more than two or three on a page, according to size.

On arrival at home, the book should be placed beneath a heavy, even weight, and allowed to remain undisturbed for a couple of days. The leaves last procured may then be removed to the larger book or file of old papers, which serves as a permanent repository, and the temporary book will then be ready for another expedition. The transfer serves two uses, one of which is convenience in handling a smaller expedition book than would be suitable for preserving a large number of leaves; and secondly, facilitating the process of drying by removing them from the pages which have absorbed all the first moisture. Pressing leaves with a hot iron, and the like, while affording a rapid method of preserving the form, is very unsatisfactory in regard to permanence, the leaves being made brittle, and the finer shading often destroyed. There are several methods of preserving the leaves with a coat of varnish after they have been sufficiently pressed. The process should take at least a week. A favorite one is to dip them in melted wax; another is to apply a very thin coat of picture varnish with a fine camel's hair brush. The first method preserves a more natural appearance; the second makes them look glossy. Sometimes it is well to try both ways, as the latter suits the rich, dark leaves, and the combination of the two well arranged is very effective.

In arranging the collections upon card-board, and in other ways for ornamental purposes much depends upon the taste of the operator. It is well, as a general rule, to begin with the stems and work up, covering your tracks with smaller leaves, acorns, and berries.

We have seen a simple room with no aid to ornament, except a few common photographs and white muslin curtains, made a bower of beauty by wreaths, festoons, borders, cornices, and sprays of autumn leaves.

SOUND SLEEP FOR CHILDREN.—Let children go to bed early—the earlier the better. Moreover, all children, young babies included, should go to sleep of their own accord, and wake up in the same manner. Nature is or should be their nurse. Excitable children should not be allowed to play noisy, exciting games just before retiring, with the view of tiring them out. When very sleepless, putting their hands in cold water, and sponging their head with cold water and vinegar, is a good remedy.

IF YOU WOULD LIGHTEN LIFE, do not give yourself entirely to business, or worldly cares. Take time for recreation, as well as instruction. "All work and no play," says the old proverb, "makes Jack a dull boy."

FORBEARANCE TOWARDS OTHERS, charity and kindness should never be forgotten. "Forgive, as we forgive others," is the golden rule.