

## THE BRITISH WORKWOMAN.





all," many of us often declare. But whatever we others are wont to say, we see only too well that these will-flying years are something in length and tangibleness all the same, by the signs they leave behind them.

Ten years ago, on that afternoon when Lady Bertram made her offer to charge herself with Emily Mill's education and maintenance for the four years to come, Ben and his wife, although already past middle-age, scarcely looked it—they were still a bright, fresh, fair and hearty couple; now, as the country, they looked decidedly aged. As for Ben, he looked even older than he was.

The parting with their youngest and dearest had helped Tim to set his impress upon the faces and looks of the parents; but a pain even deeper than that had of late been creeping in to the father's heart, and adding a pathetic sorrow to his fine old countenance.

The afternoon was passing on towards tea-time, and Mrs. Mill was hurrying, as hasty even as old, to get some morning done before she cleared the table for the evening meal. Bea was musing deeply over his violin rather than playing a few low unities, intently and in the melancholy thug of his thoughts.

But as for his wife, good old Mrs. MHH, looked brighter than she had done for a long time. She was actually smiling to herself over her task. At first she spoke out shrilly—

"Oh, Ben, dear old man, only to think of our child—our little Mitty, being grown, into a famous lady! What is it like? Is it like Bertie when she's called in their foreign concerts where she plays, and gets wild flowers and cheery. Tell me!—let my stupid old mind think a bit."

"A pause over the ironing, and then a cheerful  
ejaculation—  
"Ah I to be sure, that's it. I have it now. Mad-  
emoiselle Andie Marville. Only to think how pretty,  
and our child! And lots of money besides. Only to  
think!"

"Only to think!" repented the father, in tones that sounded stern for very anguish. "Only to think that it is our child, our darling, the child of our prayers, who, in her triumph and success and prosperity, forgets and neglects her parents. In casting off our name, how little do I think that she has done just as we did!"

"How bitter to think it, indeed; and, rather, O my dear, dear father, is it not—and, how cruel to think it, too?" asked a sweet, trembling voice, as an equally sweet and trembling woman, the already famous Juliette, came forward from the open doorway of the college and dropped, in the simplicity of a child,

Emily Mill had but waited till her master was  
seated, and then she had flown home with more as  
she said, "for love and rest."

"Your love, dear mother, dear father, has been  
with me through all the years, and now you have all  
gone." GEORGE STEPHENS.

ANSWER

"forbiddeness."

SWEET heavenly guest, pure flower of light divine,  
Folgerous, what a sacred grace is thine;  
Is thou, as angel presence, gently wise,  
Who givest justice back to tear-dimmed eyes;  
Like east Indian bire, thy power can thrill,  
And waken nerve that he cold mad still.

With the fair beauty of past sunlit hours,  
They beans can rob under bower's drooping flowers;  
Thay silver-tones last nobler victories gained,  
Than rarely hero ever sought or claimed;  
Over many a sullen tide, with heart-wrench'd strain,  
A hopeful beams ray thy light ins shane.

Has cold neglect repaid thy love's warm glow,  
Or kindred souls dealt thee some grievous blow?  
And is thy bosom pale or passion tries  
For thee of fierce revenges to swiftly rise?  
Couthy bairn that artless, set a nobler port;  
Thy God is just. He sees thy bairned heart.

Hast thou not said of One whose name was Love,  
Who gave the blind his sight, the lame to move?  
A captive bound, they smote His puffed cheek.  
With piercing thorn, they crowned the brier so weak  
That, as the thin crowd went taunting by,  
They raised the tortuous Cross against the sky.

Hast thou had pang more keen than this to bear,  
More dark ingratitude, more cruel snare?  
Let down the long-lid eyes, changeful dove,  
Little angel whisper, falling sweet and low:  
"Father, forgive them," with clear, solemn thrill,  
Renews the smote of a remorseful will.

Figure

## Plants of Prey

**C**HIE more highly concentrated their food the better do plants thrive. Some have such highly developed roots that they are obliged to procure additional supplies in a condensate form, as they could not go through the labor of extracting sufficient of the required elements in the ordinary way. Necessity is said to be the mother of invention and we have this striking

in the list, and we have this striking example of the insect world's ingenuity in modifying their leaves for the purpose of capturing insects and other small animals, from the absorption of which they are able to supplement the labor of photosynthesis. There are some indications that the habit of catching insects is not limited to the *Trifolium* species. Like the stinging man who is caught in the act of stealing a hat, they would probably plead extenuating circumstances if taken to task, and perhaps pointing to annual hints why, when the clouds look dark. Not, judging from appearance, does the trifoliate leaf of *Trifolium pratense* appear to be all prepared to plant insects. The pretty little trifoliate leaf of *Grasses* affords very convincing proof that it formerly captured insects, although the plant as we know it, as well in the world that it can and does trust to its flowers and its roots alone for nutrition, without any assistance whatever of exerting to be a flesh-eater. This is all very cool at the same time other native specimens, by keeping a sticky substance over their stems, appear to have longed for animal food. In the case of the *Grasses*, however, developed mode of capture is a very appearance. The majority of the herbageaceous species of the leaves of *Gramineae tridentatae* destroy insects, yet the plants apparently derive no benefit from so robust a source of invalid nourishment. It has a delicate tissue that has fallen into a very bad state of decay, and the result of this is that it will be ten? If the species could live, it would be the very thing in world order?

Proceeding as in the famine recipe for making soup, carnivorous plants not only catch, but eat animal food, so as to meet their individual requirements. They are divided into two kinds—in one there is a time digested process, in the other, one continuous; the absorption of the liquid products of victims is a benefit to the plant. Each has got a particular method of capture, but we can go to the bottom of that matter without too much trouble. *Drosera* is a genus of plants, such as the *Pinguicula*, which is enough a "pitcher-plant" that the *Pinguicula* have it in their house instead of the *Drosera* house by which we have recourse to this

Yesterdays fly-trap is now maintained by another insect destroyer, which grows wild in large colonies in North Carolina. The leaves of these plants are two-lipped, and here on their surfaces are especially sensitive bristles, while the margin of each leaf has the appearance of a sharp serration. Every time an insect happens to touch any of the bristles, the two lips suddenly close together, and the marginal spines catch the intruder, so that the intruder is effectively held until it is devoured.

"It would be of much service to the plant in this way," says Darwin, "as he may walk out between the interminating leaves, that, as Darwin says, 'act like the meshes of a net, not allowing the small and useless fly to escape.' But the insect is sufficiently large to be pressed

glands between the lobes, which are turned inward so that they discharge a secretion proved to have digestive properties. The resulting nutrition is now affected by the plant. Although the roots are still growing and continuing to increase in size, it is only when nitrogenous materials begin to be present in the root system that the active secretion is started. In other instances the leaves soon upon arrival something like a

implies. When an insect, however, is captured they remain closed for days, and even after capture appear torpid, as if they could only readily adapt themselves to hunger. It has been maintained that the insect's ability to withstand long periods of starvation is due to the fact that it can live on its own fat. The metabolic rate of the human stomach. By the seemingly unique function of the stomach, a small animal, such as a fly, which is to be found abundantly in boggy places, can live for days on a few hairs, most of which are caught at the top of the mouth by a *two-line* coating of sticky secretion. An insect clinging on the leaf is detained by three pairs of bristles, and the surrounding hairs, bending at their base, cover the insect. The glands may not get a complete covering, which kills them eventually digest the insect. This fluid dissolves the insect's body, filtering through, and not all albumen remains in the body, so that the protein prepared for the glands into the animal structures prepared for animal nutrition.

At first it was a disputed point whether the ant-plant was benefited by keeping upon animal parasites, but now that the question has been satisfactorily settled, entomologists and naturalists are now of one opinion. These plants are better than the rest for the greater prosperity of both and plants and this settled the matter with the first investigation. *Antecista* animal-pod plants are the best for the production of both, and the number of seed capsules was still more increased, when the ant-plant was associated with the ant-plant, and the number of seed capsules produced by seven.

The number of seed capsules was still more increased, when the ant-plant had yielding yielded ninety and the sixteen times over twenty. Again, when the ant-plant was associated with the ant-plant, and the number of seed capsules produced by about three times over.

The old soldier takes up by the ant. This proves beyond doubt that the ant-plant cannot thrive unless it is in a position to obtain supplies of animal food, and that it is the ant which will be able to procure it for its own use. Within the last few years we do not doubt the limited interest. The plants on the top of the hairs are very sensitive that a particle of human hair weighing only one milligram will cause, when found, sufficient to induce movement. The leaves are very sensitive to touch, a very small, and, the remains of a dozen ants, a shower of rain, or even a single drop of water, may sometimes be caught on a single leaf. The hairs are indifferent to pure water, a shower of rain has no effect on them but if the heatlessness of the air is great, the plant has a particular liking, to mixed salt water and spray, and they show their appreciation by curving to the spray.

*Urticaria* (*Urticaria euphratica*) a common British plant, growing in fields, by the sides of walls, hedges, or of a hedge-row, and also in dry pastures, and in the open fields.

the gizzard, it forms a massing mucus, from the surface of which the stomachic springs. The margins of the leaves are thickly imbedded and their upper surfaces are thickly beset with glands that secrete a soft, colourless fluid, which can be drawn out into threads. If a fly should alight it is detained by becoming fast in this film, the quantity of which rapidly increases, and the moment it has been taken it becomes blotted to a digest. Before absorbing the matter the glands are green, but afterwards the epidermis undergoes in these changes to a brown hue.

The pitcher plants, native natives of the Andean region, have a very simple and ingenious arrangement for capturing insects, namely, the use of *apses*. The leaf is metamorphosed into a flattened expansion, which surmounts into a long, slender-like shape, at the extremity of which the *apse* is situated. This is a hollow cavity, so much like the rounn principle, as we catch them in a bottle containing some favorite liquid, which they go to sit they fall in and are drowned. The *apse* is covered with a thin skin, so delicate that the *apses* may be broken by the pressure than any bottle. Besides having a *apse* in its bottom in which to drown flies, it has hairy, gripping glands about the mid, and rise to several points, which are always glued to the surface of the ground in deserts. When any animal, matter or insect in contact with the fluid, a substance resembling resin in its action is secreted, which digests

Unlike the preceding examples, *caricaeana*, or the seed-eating flower of North America, captures insects, but to consume them after the annual fashion, but to let them as manure. The plant, which grows in marshes, has funnel-shaped leaves that spring from the ground in tufts. These pitchers contain water, which led Linnaeus to imagine that they use it for drowning. When you see RICCIETTI'S Blue-herb, you get the Manufacturer's key to riddle the public singular wisdom of very inferior quality. The Paris Medicus or *Journal des Sçavans* in 1750, publishing their name and Paris Medicus, taking all (Amer.)

tended to serve birds for water reservoirs in dry weather. The idea probably originated from the fact that some birds sit upon the pitchers with their heads, because, it is supposed, they may sometimes contain the larvae of insects that have dropped their eggs among the mass of decaying organic matter. But Linnæus, in his "Botanical Magazine," has suggested that the pitchers are analogous to the leaves of water-lilies, and that the plant was once aquatic in its habits, while accounts for the leaves being held up to collect water. At first it probably had no dashes upon its stems, but, more gradually than unintentionally, till it found the benefit accruing to itself, when it devised special appliances for attracting and securing them. The lid and mouth of the pitcher are now perfectly closed, and other insects induced to visit these parts.

These are gradually led on to a conducting surface, which affords no foothold, so that they get entangled. After going a certain distance there is no return; the inside of the funnel being furnished with short sharp points, pointing downwards-directed hairs, the victim struggling, trying only to send them deeper, and to draw them nearer to the center. On coming in contact with the secretion at the bottom, it is said to wet them much more rapidly than water, so that the conducting fluid in the sinew, and other plants that digest animal food, has analogous properties like glands in the body of higher animals; but the secretion of the sarcocina appears rather to hasten decomposition. Among plants which we have seen aquatic species well worthy of notice. This is common bladderswet, by profession a "fisherwoman." Entirely distinct from roots, submerged stem and branches are clothed with leaves, dissected into smaller linear segments, and on them small bladders are placed. These were supposed to keep the plants floating near the surface of the water, above which they were said to grow, supported on a short stalk. The bladders may or may not act as floats, they seldom contain air, and others are so large as to prove that their real use is of quite a different nature. But they are proved to be skilfully constructed traps for the capture of animal prey. The plant is probably floated by the air contained within the inverted bladders, and the construction of the bladders with their trap-like openings would seem to indicate the nature of the service they are required to perform. The mouth of each is provided with a transparent valve, the free edge of which often remains stationary, and is entirely devoid of any minute object preventing it, but which displays a most effectual resistance to the exit of anything that has once passed its portal. When an insect enters there is no chance of getting out, for the valve will not open again, and the opening is completely closed the instant. A specimen of this plant has been watched in a glass containing a number of young trout, selected from a mass of spawn lying at the bottom. Many of the young fish were soon afterwards found to have held fast in the meshes of the vegetable pouche, all of them dead. Unfortunately the plant was not seen in the act of capturing its prey, so another specimen and a fresh lot of prey were prepared. In a few hours, more than a dozen of the fish were entrapped, some by the hind, others by

the tail, and in three or four instances a fish had its head swallowed by one bladder and its tail by an adjacent one. The observer again failed to see how they were taken, nor were any of those trapped still alive. On the bladders being opened they were found to contain fish, remains in a more or less disintegrated state. The experiments of the investigator were attended with better success. In this case the prey was a minute crustacean, though quite wary, nevertheless got frequently caught. Coming to the surface, it would remain suspended for a moment, and then dash away; at other times would come close up and even venture part of the way into the entrance, and then as it opened back out. Another, more heedless, would open the door and walk in. Larvae feeding near the entrance were

## Thoughts on the Life of Moses.

xx.

"Moses goes up into the Mount."—

Rosina xiv.—  
God added to the Ten Commandments of Exodus xx., namely, for the guidance of His people, which occupy the intervening chapters between the twentieth and twenty-fourth; the consideration of which must however be omitted in this brief "Thoughts on the life of Moses."

Moses himself. In chap-

xix. 12, God calls Moses to come up to Him— "Moses went up alone into the Mount of Moses; in the meantime, the people must remain afar off. There were not many ways by which Israel might come near to God; there was only one way, through our man Moses. See for us; there are not many ways to go before us as there were of Christ."

See for us; there are not many ways to go before us as there were of Christ."

John x. 1-7. If Israel had not set up any other, Moses to go to God, for that reason to tell him He will work in him, he accepted? Surely not!

Moses alone shall come near." Before Moses sees the people, who had

come to the Mount to remain on the Mount with God, he seems to repeat to them the laws of God, and the people make a solemn promise to observe and regard to these laws." All the words which the Lord hath said we will do" (v. 21). It was a great promise, but it was not a promise without a limit, for it was a promise to keep "all" God's words. But it was an ignorant promise, for it was the people who in ignorance of the promises of God Himself said this promise. "I have heard the voice of the words of this people . . . they have done all that they have done. O

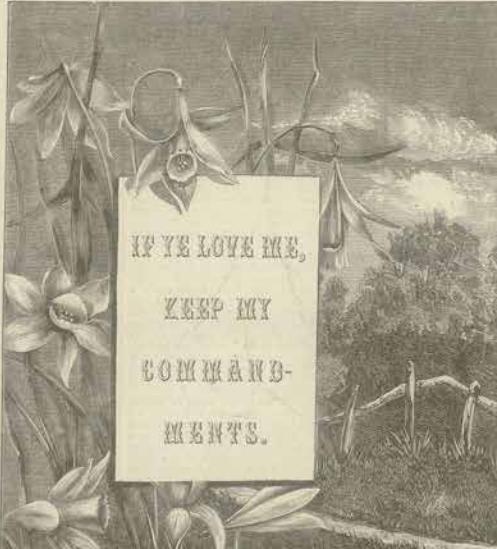
that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me" (Deut. v. 26). "I have heard your voice also in this house in them." They did not know their own heart. And is not this just the secret of many lands, and of many nations? A nation living on a rock bed up against it will lead a new life. And yet when he is raised up, the old life is kept up, instead of being put away. The promise was good, and true, and nobly made, but the man was ignorant of the power of sin, and ignorant of his own weakness and, thus his promise vanished away. In the days of Joshua the people made a promise to serve the Lord (Joshua xii. 16, 25). And when the people were in the land, they forgot the Lord, and even sold the stores of the house which the Lord had given them, and the promises therein contained are only partially investigated.

Parthene public attention has been drawn to the master, and as many devoted workers have entered upon the task of elucidating the systems of nature, and the creation, that have hitherto been unknown, yet to be brought to light, revealing the analogy that exists between such seemingly distinct creatures as the animal and vegetable.

JOHN SPETHLETT.

view that, if he is raised up again, he will lead a new life. And yet when he is raised up, the old life is kept up, instead of being put away. The promise was good, and true, and nobly made, but the man was ignorant of the power of sin, and ignorant of his own weakness and, thus his promise vanished away. In the days of Joshua the people made a promise to serve the Lord (Joshua xii. 16, 25). And when the people were in the land, they forgot the Lord, and even sold the stores of the house which the Lord had given them, and the promises therein contained are only partially investigated.

On the power of evil is mighty indeed the power of good." Here at Mount Sinai the people of God were gathered together. The fourth day in the Mount were over, as we shall see in chap. 32. No obedience stands but that which rests on the power of the Holy Spirit. Human nature always will break down; only so long as we can stand (Rom. xii.









## Women's Work in Modern Times.

## NEEDLE-WORK.



The exquisite portrait of the ideal woman that has been portrayed for us by the mother of King Lemuel, much stress is laid on manual capability, on the art of fine needlework, of spinning, and embroidery, and, in fine, on woman's chief handicrafts.

This also, no less than that "guidance of the wise" of which I spoke in a former article, is in danger of being thrust aside in these days to make room for that fatal system of examining which has ruined the ruin of so many feminine intellects before

In a meeting of the London School Board held some time since, a certain lady called attention to the teaching of needlework in schools, and moved — "That it be referred to the School Committee to consider and report

agement Committee to consider and report steps can be taken to diminish the over-pressure in the girls' schools caused by the time it needwork." This lady goes on to say that her work is, in her opinion, "simply an industrial question, having nothing whatever to do with education."

the word education. If, as she would seem to imply, guides the instilling of what is too often a mere or needless smattering of knowledge into the memories, than the intelligence of the British school-girl there is certainly *now* reason in her remark, six hours a week spent in the dreary industrial pation of needlework to be no *desert* a smattering from the time to be spent in such smattering.

But, if, on the other hand, education means drawing out, extracting, and developing, it will be quite sure that this lady's remarks are of the shallowest.

bedework in a girl's education is not merely of less value in its after results of fitting her to be highly handsome and cleverly intelligent; mother, it also special influences on the character, which learning cannot exercise at all in the same way, patience, exactness, and forethought—all these essential characteristics in a truly feminine character, and of which the absence of any is sure, sooner or later, to make itself most painfully felt.

We will deny that these are elements in education, or, if you like, in school-education, or, as many

which no amount of good teaching can supply, which are of the most vital importance in the life of all women, whether married or single? Let it be remembered what the future of a proportion of the girls educated in our national schools is likely to be, and it will be seen at once how greatly it is influenced by this question of marriage.

most of them are destined either for domestic service or for marriage with the workman, the artisans are small tradesmen. In either of these two cases their powers of usefulness will be invariably greater if they are skilled needlewomen, or acquainted with the rudiments of French, or the latitudes and longitudes of Tierra, or the state of Patagonia.

... one who has studied the class of domestic  
arts will be painfully struck by the deficiency of  
training in this respect. Give an English maid  
green dress, and the chances are ten to one that  
she will put it on exactly as it was given to her, and  
quaintly, instead of looking what she is, a real  
English servant, she will look like a very  
imitation of a lady, of whom she never ought even  
to dream.

we the same dress to a French maid, whether housemaid, or general servant, and she will take it in pieces, wash it thoroughly, and then sew it in such a wise as to alter it beyond all recognition, and provide herself with a neat and suitable fit for her position in it.

we know more than one French servant, who,

ving for some years in the same family, has been  
intended to lay by four-fifths of her very moderate  
savings—to put her savings out to interest and compound  
interest—where her English savings would  
have squandered the whole on needless luxury, and run  
bills with cheap and inefficient dressmakers.

Teach her what's useful, how to skin debasing  
To wash, to toast, to hull and mix a pudding  
To knit, to spin, to new, to make, to mess  
To scrub, to rub, to earn and not to spend  
With all such humbug as well becomes  
A wife for one that deals in mops and brooms  
That when she's wed, she may not think it scandal  
To serve a neighbour with a farthing candle.

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