

THE USE OF FLOWERS.

Each successive incident in fell possesses a suggestive influence towards the future, by which we ought to become better; and the approach of Decoration Day suggests to me the following:

There is much more significance in a wreath or badge of flowers than in any design of art. The brother in a church, or a member of any organized society, may be a traitor or hypocrite to the principles he professes, and still wear the society badge without public blame. A badge of flowers, however, cannot be so worn. They express too much—they reveal the last trace of hypocrisy in the wearer; and on the other hand, the sacred badge of flowers will certainly vindicate an innocent wearer against wrong charges. The choice of flowers, either for badge or decorative purposes, as well as the arrangement of the same, forms a correctly written page of the purity or corruption within the heart; they tell the truth, if we study to know how to read them; hence, the one who ignores the use of flowers must be ignorant of their language and the beauty of their testimony. They are nature's symbol, token, mirror; witness to reveal to each other just what we are.

Flowers, then, possess a real value to us, as a scale to determine the care taken in self-education. We say self-education, because no school or progenitor can educate the heart, the soul, and place within the sacred ballast of love, sympathy and true affection, the base and foundation of humanity. All they can do, is to qualify us for the work. Each of us must educate, furnish and fit up the parlor of our own soul, or it will never be done. We say never be done, just as if nature has done nothing for us in this direction. Certainly the education of the soul is either positive or negative, and no part of nature's animal, any more than the furnishing of a parlor is a part of the building. A building, no matter how grand its architecture, if not furnished and occupied will become the home of vile and venomous creatures which crawl in and out at pleasure. The owner is absent and cannot cleanse and guard it. So with the parlor of our soul. Nature has built one for each of us; but as truly each must furnish and occupy his or her own, and much depends upon the suit we place within. It is of our own choosing, and the badge of flowers will surely inform the passer-by as to the care we have taken to furnish and render our parlor pure and pleasant.

Wreath of the soul, cluster of flow'rs,
Better, far better than gold;
The good or the bad nurtured within,
Thou doest most surely unfold.

The language of flowers has nothing to say about the education of the head. It speaks only concerning the purity or corruption in the heart—revealing and vindicating the pure, the noble and the good, while the diabolical hideousness of the wicked, polluted heart is brought out a frontpiece before the world. What combination of flowers can lend their graces of benevolent purity in commendation of evil practices? Fit one, if you can to the drunkard, the prostitute, the thief, the gambler, the liar, the profane wearer, the prize-fighter,

the murderer, the swindler and the unscrupulous politician. What manner of furniture is within the parlor of such souls, and what flowers will commend them. Only corruption is there, and a badge of flowers droops with shame in that hand or upon that coat. The self-education has been negative, or evil, and no flower is in harmony with a negative. They harmonize the soul's treasure of goodness in the positive.

We read a story and realize something of the subject; but when it is accompanied by a well-drawn picture illustration, we obtain a well-defined knowledge. It is so with our character, the eye, the mouth, the nose, the voice, the gestures and the general physical expression and demeanor furnish a map of illustration and key to our character, and is in accord with the purity or impurity of the heart; and a badge of flowers will as truly reflect the harmony or disharmony, as you can behold yourself in a glass. Observe and learn of them. How often we see the weeping cluster worn for fashion by a filthy hearted one, and pity its defamation. It tells the truth of its imprisonment, while it also portrays the discord and deception of the wearer.

Are we just and upright? Then flowers will vindicate us. Who is above or below us? No one. Who is behind us in the register of life? Many. Then let us take the lagging ones by the hand and help them to the front, and flowers may be our common badge of love, sympathy and fraternal work; while the luminous rays and odorous influences thereof will establish peace and prosperity in the complete harmony prevailing about. Let us cast away subtlety and wickedness, and gather to ourselves the good, the pure, the noble, then our flowers will be glad, and not weep.

Flowers are not legitimately used to describe mere fancy. They enter into the sympathies of the soul, portray the education thereof over the mere animal; they are full-blown in fragrance and beauty only in the family circle, and become exhausted only in the coffin and grave. Every use of flowers is significant only as it points to home and children, describing mutual, paternal love in obligations, cares and duties. Let us not abuse them.

A. W. PARSONS.

FAILURE OF S. R. MARKS & CO.

Yesterday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, the following notice was affixed to the window at the establishment of S. R. Marks & Co., furniture dealers, on South Temple Street: "George W. Willis, assignee." The announcement, though brief, was an unmistakable one. Mr. Marks has been in business in this city for upwards of four years, and much sympathy will be felt for him in his financial embarrassment. His first venture on his own account, was in a room in the old Constitution building, where he opened with a small stock. Thence he moved subsequently to 17 and 19 West Temple street, but in consequence of his rapid increase of trade he eventually entered upon the fine and commodious premises which he occupied at the time of the failure. During the past sixteen or

eighteen months Mr. Marks has felt severely, like many other local tradesmen, the effects of the dull times, and although he strove his hardest to make both ends meet, by limiting his purchases of goods and pushing the collection of outstanding debts, he found himself unable any longer to hold off the importunities of his creditors, and so yesterday the final crash came.

It seems that the Rockford Chair Company of Rockford, Ill., had a balance of \$317 due them, and the Albert Ross Furniture Manufacturing Company also wanted a matter of \$98 on sight, or they would know the reason why.

These together with prospective judgments in court left the firm no alternative but to protect its home creditors as best it could. The debts of the firm are largely in the value of promissory notes, the schedule showing \$15,900 in favor of the following persons:

L. A. Sudbury.....	\$5,000
Isabella Erickson.....	2,300
P. H. Young.....	1,500
Mrs. T. G. M. Smith.....	1,100
W. S. McCormick & Co.....	5,000
W. G. Davis.....	1,000

The assets consist of the stock of goods which, roughly estimated, is placed at from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

The assignee's deed makes the following the order of distribution:

First—To pay from the firm assets all such debts of said firm as by law are entitled to preference, and to pay from the assets of the individuals thereof all such debts as are by law entitled to a preference.

Second—To pay from the firm assets the costs and charges of these presents and the expenses of executing the trust declared herein.

Third—To pay from the firm assets to the employees of said partnership and all sums of money due to them for services rendered to said firm previous to the date of this indenture.

Fourth—With and out of the net proceeds of the separate and individual property of each of said parties of the first part to pay in full his separate and individual debts and liabilities and the net proceeds of the separate and individual property of each or either of the said parties of the first part is insufficient to pay his separate and individual debts and liabilities in full then the proceeds of the individual property of the said party of the first part so insufficient to pay his debts and liabilities in full shall be applied pro rata to the payment of the said party's separate and individual debts and liabilities. If, however, any surplus remains of the net proceeds of the said separate and individual property of either of said parties of the first part after payment of his separate and individual debts and liabilities in full, the said surplus shall be applied towards the payment of the co-partnership debts and liabilities of the said parties of the first part.

Captain Z. Kuehnen, teacher at the Naval Academy of Philadelphia, is at present staying in Stockholm. When he returns to America, he intends to publish a book, the result of his observations of the naval defenses of Europe. He intends, however, first to visit Germany and Russia and there pursue studies similar to those he has made in Sweden.