LIFE'S ESSENCE.

RICHARD HALE.

Fair are the flowers and the children, but their subtle magnetism is fairer;
Rare is the lyric song, and the poet's dream, but rarer that clasp that is fairer;
Sweet the exultation of song, but the strain that precedes it is sweeter;
And never a song was yet sung but the meaning outmasters the meter.

Never a daisy that grows but a mystery guideth the growing;
Never a river that flows but a majesty scepters the flowing;
Never a Shakespeare that soared but a stronger than he did guided him,
Nor ever a prophet blessed mankind but a mightier ever hath foretold him.

Back of the canvas that throbs the painter is hinted and hidden;
Into the statue that breathes the soul of the sculptor is bidden.
Under the joy that is felt lie the infinite issues of feeling,
Crowning the glory never felt is the glory that crowns the revealing.

Great is the symbol of being, but that symbol is symbolized greater;
Vast the expansion and broad, but vaster the life wherein it exists;
Back of the material breeds the spirit, back of the gift stands the giving;
Back of the God that you see stands God the unseen, the creative.

MAJOR GLINTON'S MISTAKE.

Major Glinton was one of the most courageous fellows in the world, according to the men who saw him but also, the ladies, of his acquaintance—beauties, in his opinion, they laughed to scorn, for they considered him the most timid creature they had ever seen. Not a very fond of ladies' society, they said, or he would not spend all his evenings at parties or making calls; yet no one lady, old or young, single or married, had ever known him to express his regard in any way that was not extremely decorous and formal. Hey? They would do so soon think of a tomtom or a telegraph pole attempting to flirt! Most of the Major's male acquaintances carried wars on their hearts, so great were the attacks more honorable than judicious, or sudden surprises to fair sweetmisses, but no one could imagine the Major to have suffered any such mishap; for he not only made no proposals, nor but he always seemed opportunately within hearing shot of the girl, if one of a pair of eyes leveled directly at him.

The truth was that the brave Major was not cut out as a gallant, a model maiden, but he was appropriately beside. The only design of his life was to marry, which he was fortunately able to do, but the opportunity for any step of proposing was one he had never dared to take. Until he had reached adult years he had not been a woman, but his very cowardice, or shyness, to whom he had tried in be a father, and upon whose rare purity and sweetness he had fixed his idea of womanhood. Both married and went far from their old home, so they could not help him to gain a single disbusing him in the matter, as all women were supposed for him. To Glinton nearly every woman appeared a goddess to be worshiped one after another, although only one at a time, and his reason was so correct that he was obliged to change devotees a great many times in months to avoid misunderstanding than was wife. Wholesome and old-fashioned delicacy the feeling of the heart told of a new dart that had found its way to his heart, revolved solemnly to propose at once, and vary the double monotony of having another idiot step in before him. And each time he delayed, just for a day or a week, or because he feared too much or tripped too wildly, and every time he waited a little the long, every time lost one.

For when the Major met Alice Wallerson, he felt that, if he lost her, he would be more than his life could endure. She was pretty as all women seemed to the Major. She was good and she was sweet, she Major was everything else why were all other women usually fond of her first of all, she seemed the most modest and shy maiden in the whole circle of his acquaintance, and through these qualities would be able to offset him sympathy with the world, and he felt he deserved regarded with provoking smiles.

But how should he propose? Being a woman, he could not propose to her, far more sensative than his own, so even if he were to nerve himself to the ordeal, how could he be enough of a brute to inflict greater pain upon her, if he loved her? Even where she favorably disposed towards him, he was sure it would be a cruel to propose would put her heart in a terrible tumult; how much more dreadful would it be, then, for her to listen to him should she not be favorably disposed.

He knew that, she always looked at him pleasantly, he felt that she had been even grateful to him one evening, when both, as a party, and both blushing, timidity, retired to the same half-hidden corner of the drawing-room, each innocent of the approach of the other, and each over-anxious, on meeting, to show that the affair was a mere accident. This was the only basis of Glinton's hope, and yet he had been disappointed so many times he could not bear to think of failure now.

He made several rails, with the intention of proposing, but every time his courage failed him; besides, Mrs. Wallerson or Alice's sister Nell was always in the parlor. Of course he could not say before two what he dreaded to say even with a single hearer. Worse still, Miss Nell, who was a brilliant brunette of the irrepressible species, could not avoid teasing him shy, at every possible opportunity, and he always lost his tongue under her onslaughts.

Then he tried to propose in writing, and for a week of evenings he wrote steadily, with no more satisfactory result than a note to Mrs. Wallerson, in which he intended to inclose his proposal.

Chance finally came in play to his aid. Miss Nell, as one of a trio of girls, we had developed a surprise party for a recently married couple, wrote to the Major about the project, and begged that he would call and give her some assistance about some of mutual acquaintances longing gentlemen As the Major read her note a brilliant thought occurred to him. While talking business Miss Nell would certainly not endeavor to tease him; his bashfulness never troubled him while talking with ladies on any subject requiring common sense, opinion and executive ability; he should, therefore, be able to feel at ease with Miss Nell. And while at that unusual condition he would make a confidant of her and ask her advice and assistance. He would try to talk to her if she were a man; it might be a rash experiment, but he felt equal to almost any degree of rashness when he thought of how many times before he had resolved and failed.

So the Major went to Wallerson home on the evening appointed by mischievous Miss Nell, with a cluster heart than he had felt, outside of business hours, since the war ended. He arranged with the young lady to bring all his male friends into the surprise party, and she, rather confused by her new view of the Major's character, was most effusive in his thanks, and being only twenty-three years of age and no older than her years signified, was completely astonished by the Major's business. She could not help betraying her curiosity; she looked at the Major inquiringly, she dropped into reverse, and

The Time to Cut Timothy.

In an address on "Grasses" delivered before the Annual Agricultural Convention at Indianapolis, Hon. J. D. Nelson of Fort Wayne, Indiana, said: Timothy unquestionably makes much the best hay for all classes of stock, and well cured, which is more easily accomplished than any other grass, but winter is not always favorable for hay, and yet is as worthless as need be when cut at an unseasonable time, or handled in an unintelligent manner. The rule for cutting timothy is, when it is in full even best state, if possible, and that is when the major part of the field is in bloom. Some of the seed has fallen, the milk, and most of them, perhaps before I was through, for I never cut my grass wet or dry, because I wize to really, as some do. But my rule is to cut the first for day after I think the gluten, starch and sugar are most abundant in the stalk, and leave it in the swath or work as fast as possible during the dry weather and while dewy, plenty of sunshine. Never let grass for hay when it is wet from much dew or even a very little rain. Only a careful observation of the weather is needed, generally, to secure a day of good condition. During the summer season two or three days of cloudy, rainy weather is usually followed by a long spell of sunshine, and the rain is always good, has curing weather, alternating in that manner through the season of very dry drought we have had, I never pay any attention to the signs in the moon or the weather prophets, nor even bought a barometer, but I am slow and unwelcome to accept conclusions to out my business, and properly for the average farmer, carefully reliable as the barometer. All things being ready and weather favorable, I start the mower as soon as the dew is off in the morning and put it off at the rate of two or three hours, if the weather continues fine, or until the take starts, and cut with the mower, and rake and cut, with men following the mower with forks, cocking up in good shape to rake, leaving it mowed at sundown in the morning.

Cleveland Wanderer. Time and more important things are coming to pass. The following from an exchange, says the Cockmaker's magazine, is valuable information on the subject, which we trust will be heed by all who are aware that they do not grind and carriages more indicative of guessing, and probably thanks to the agitation. A wash mixed will endure, and improve from ten to twenty for years, if carefully taken to use the right kind and amount of grease. Many of the wagons not attended to the wash will last twice or six years. Hard wood must be kept well oiled, or it will probably crack the line, and soft is wasted around the bosses of the spokes, spoil the wheel. Tallow is the best lubricator for the axle, and is easier oil for iron. Just grease should be applied to the spindle of ongoing large it a light lubricating, but very little more, and the wagon will work out at the end, and forced to the shoulder hands, and not to the hub, and the wear of the boxes. To oil an iron excellent wear the spindle clean and wet with spirits of turpentine, and then put on a few drops of sweet oil, and rub the spindle and end. One tablespoonful sufficient for the whole. We would add that for journal on which the axle is heavy provided it is well to begin with the oil some lampblack or common soot. Powdered plumbago is also used; also employed for the same purpose.

COAL ASHES.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman asks if there is any reason why coal ashes should not be advantageously used in gardens, and receives the following answer: "Very little inherent fertilizing properties, and the chief benefit to be derived from them is as a mechanical action. They have been used to advantage for mulching, and for modifying the texture of soil. But the results of different experimenters are so varied that it is not satisfactory way to ascertain their value on any soil to be make the trial. Ashes are strongly opposed by some gardeners, and by others strongly warm, but we never found them of any value for this purpose. There are two other uses to which ashes may be put to advantage, namely, in consecrating cheap walks and carriage drives, and as an absorbent for stalls and filth pots, etc. (they are to be previously slaked.)

THE SUNFLOWER.—As a producing food for poultry there is nothing better than the ripe seeds of the sunflower. It is a plant easily grown in any vacant spot of ground, and in the field fences. The variety known in the Russian is the best and most easily grown, the plants growing no special care. A little before the seed is ripe and ready to drop, cut off the heads, then stow them away in a dry place where they will not mold, and they will produce of seed, often yielding at the rate of 60 bushels per acre. Sunflower seed is of an oily nature, and not only stimulates egg production in the laying hens, but gives the plumage, hence it is just the thing for feeding birds intended for winter and early spring poultry exhibitions

HOW MUCH A FURROW WALKS.—Did any one of our readers ever think how many steps a farmer takes in a year? Take the simple planting of a field of potatoes. Take a furrow to be to break it up would require walking some forty miles, harrowing it, ten miles; furrowing it, twenty miles; planting, 1 Even supposing the potatoes of dropped by hand and then covered, twenty miles. Thus it will be seen that it takes what the farmer walks in a five-acre field of corn, by say nothing of cultivating and harvesting, and the going to and from the field while planting.

WORK WITH THE ROOTS.—It will usually pay to go through even broadcast turnips, and thin them, and pull or cut out the strongest weeds—smartweed, pigweed, etc. Weeds, if they are in drills, it is absolutely necessary Even when roots are very backward, and the outlook is discouraging on the first of September, thinning, weeding, and hoeing will make a crop. All kinds of turnips do their best growing after cold nights so we are hoping for rain of the day. Loose earth, and full possession of the ground, are prime requisites to their doing their best.

BUCKWHEAT.—The plant is extremely sensitive to frost. The grain which is already matured, if not ripe, is not hurt, and the straw is not used for feed. The reason why frost is so injurious, may therefore not be easily seen, but we think, or notice, that upon almost every plant, we have the seed in every stage of development, from the blossom, to the ripe grain, and if an early frost, a great proportion of the unripe seed will develop perfectly, and the success of ripening of the seed seem to be hindered by the frost after the buckwheat is cut.

Hawthorne's House.

Boston Gazette.

"The Wayside" at Concord, which is about to be sold, is the only home Hawthorne ever owned. It is a quaint and picturesque old house, situated about a mile from Concord Village on the Lexington road. When she tackles the buckraw in the cellar he puts on his hat and walks out of the house.—Somerville Journal.

The Simple Method of Staining a Floor.

The simplest method of staining a floor is to get from a dealer in paints half a gallon of oak-stain ready mixed, pour it into a basin, and cover the floor with it, using an ordinary long-shaft paint brush. Do not tread more than you can help on the part you have stained of course, you would do the floor near the door last. Some days after the stain does not make as dark a stain as you wish, wait till it is quite dry, and give it a second. When it is quite dry, the housemaid can rub it up with beeswax and turpentine, or she may make A mixture of these two ingredients with a little resin, and heat it till it is all liquid and then when it is cool rubbed on with a clean and polished up with a brush

Brown paper is very nice to lay underneath, instead of Persian, or Turkey, coarse grass's paper, painted in oils, are often used. Avoid wooden mantelpieces, and be covered with this coarse paper and painted roughly and cheaply effectively, with pink and white foxgloves and leaves or with red poppies. Of course this is a temporary fancy, but it can be only a temporary fancy, often arrive such as impromptu festivals, or dances, or parties, and weddings, when a speedy decoration is most valuable

Curtains ought to be hung so that they can constantly be taken down to be shaken, and if it is necessary, washed with breadcrumbs or bran. It is a great economy to have a second set of curtains to put up during the dirty days of winter, besides, it is much more pleasant to the eye, which gets wearied of always seeing exactly the same color and pattern from morning to night.

To mark ordinary handkerchiefs one can make for oneself a stencil cardboard, picking out in an outline of the initials, and then rub it over with a little Prussian blue, or black powder. Through the holes thus made, you can with a spool enclosed with cambric, or a piece of wool, or a black powder, indigo from the finishing of a stick charcoal powdered. This leaves an outline of the letters, which it is well to strengthen with the spool by going over them with pen and ink. Linen covers designed with the services of the stamping, you can be independent enough to do without the tax, which is generally levied upon the laundress. Take a piece of linen, which is blue red in grain not in mud, if you wish to take pleasure in the work, and with French knots, or make in cross stitch, if you prefer to work, your initials, afterwards, withdraw the threads. It is effective to work the initials in the fringe with the same colored cotton.

The painting of delicate little articles of furniture, if properly managed, may be a delightful occupation, without approachable annoyance. If possible, one or two days in succession should be chosen, and a table should be carried out with the little articles upon it. It may be wise to prevent the dispersion of dust, which falling upon the paint when wet, would spoil the work, by a smooth surface. The objection to decorating a room, which is seriously rendered by a glass, smoothing, and paper and brown paper. The paint, which is used by artists, should be picture oil paint, and in a single, double, and triple tints, turpentine is gradually mixed in, until the mount is thin enough to flow from the brush when it may be laid on thinly with various sizes and thicknesses, avoiding streaks, or blotches. After a coat of paint has been allowed to dry, and prepared for drying, in perfect stillness, should be given, then should follow a patient rubbing down with sand paper, or pumice stone, and a soft sheepskin, or flannel, for the final touch. The process should be repeated until the artist is satisfied with the delicacy and smoothness of color. Delicate little shapes, or other decorative ornaments may at last be executed in harmonious colors, and when the work is perfectly dry, and dust free, a coat of the best hard, white varnish should be gently applied. Good shades of suitable grounds for painting may be gained by a small, mixed quantity of Prussian blue, green, lake, chrome, black, and white.

Any pretty little brackets are inexpensive, and can be made by the simplest of a little shelf, supported upon strips of narrow wood. This shelf can be made of cardboard or of thin wood, covered with any kind of fine paper.

Description of speech is more than eloquence, and to speak agreeably to him with whom we speak, is more than to speak in good words or in good order.

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