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## INDIGENOUS MEDICINAL PLANTS.

Messrs. Editors: The season having arrived for collecting many valuable indigenous medicinal plants, I propose to bring the subject before our Southern people, particularly our planters, with the hope that they will not allow the time to pass without each one contributing his portion to an object so important to the health of our troops now fighting the battles of our country. Nor is the subject less important to us in a domestic point of view. Our planters now have it in their power not only to save money in the purchase of drugs, but also to make the collecting and drying of vegetable medicinal plants a source of income. I will select a few which should now be collected. I shall avoid all technical and botanical terms.

The *Butterfly Weed*, or *Pleurisy Root*, is a very common plant in South Carolina, growing in old fields and along the borders of meadows. Its brilliant clusters of bright scarlet flowers are well known to us, as appearing in June and July. It is best collected in autumn. The root is the part used, and is an excellent expectorant and diaphoretic.

*Puccoon*, or *Blood Root*, is a common plant throughout the Confederate States. Best collected in autumn, but may be collected at any time. The root is the part used. It is emetic, expectorant and alterative.

*Seneca Snake Root* grows abundantly in the Southern country. It possesses emetic and cathartic properties—is a valuable expectorant, and is highly prized in chronic coughs, asthma and croup. It has been employed successfully in rheumatism and dropsy. It should now be collected. The root is the part used.

*Serpentaria—Virginia Snake Root—*or *Small Snake Root*, grows abundantly in South Carolina and throughout the Confederate States. It is a plant of great value, and the collecting should no longer be neglected. It is a medicine highly valued by our planters, as an excellent tonic and stimulant.

*American Gentian—Blue Gentian* or *Sampson Snake Root*, is one of the purest tonics in the vegetable kingdom. It grows in grassy swamps and on the edges of roads, and blossoms from September to December. As a medicine it is little, if at all, inferior to the European Gentian. It excites the appetite, invigorates the powers of digestion, and is much esteemed as a medicine in dyspepsia. It is well known to us—its flowers are of palish blue and bell-shaped. It is one of the most beautiful plants in the Southern country. The root is the part used, and may be collected during the fall and winter months.

*Canada Snake Root—Wild Ginger*.—This plant is found in woods and shady places, as far South as Carolina. It is aromatic, stimulant and tonic, and may be well employed as a substitute for ginger; all parts of the plant have a grateful aromatic odor, and more powerful in the root, which is the part used. It also possesses diaphoretic properties, and is sometimes used by the country people as a substitute for ginger. It is an admirable adjunct to tonic infusions and decoctions. It should now be collected.

*Calamus—Sweet Flag*.—Found throughout the Confederate States, in low, wet, swampy places. It is aromatic and a stimulant tonic, and is used with great advantage in pain or uneasiness in the stomach or bowels, arising from flatulency, and in torpor or debility of the alimentary canal. The root is the part used.

*Queen's Delight*, or *Queen's Root*, is a medicine of considerable value in scrofula, cutaneous, chronic hepatic affections, and secondary syphilis. It grows abundantly in pine barrens, from Virginia to Florida. It is alterative. The root is the part used, and should be collected late in the fall or early winter months.

*Pink Root—Carolina Pink*.—Grows abundantly throughout the Southern and Southwestern States. It is one of our most powerful enthelmiotics, or worm medicine. Combined with senna it is a medicine of great value. The root is the part used,

and should be collected in the spring and fall months.

The *Poke*, commonly called *weed*, grows abundantly throughout the Confederate States, along fences, by the borders of woods, and in newly cleared and uncultivated fields. It is emetic, slightly narcotic, and occasionally cathartic. It is also alterative, and is highly recommended in rheumatic affections and syphilis. Ointment used in itch and other cutaneous diseases. Root is the part used, and should be dug late in autumn or during the winter. Cut in transverse slices and dried.

At a future time I will give you a description of medicinal herbs and the time for collecting.

MEDICUS.

## LITTLE BY LITTLE.

Do my dear young friends ever think how almost all that is good comes to us? Did you ever see a farmer planting and sowing? Down in the moist earth goes the seed, grain by grain, and little by little. God sees the farmer at his work, and knows full well that he has done what he could; so he kindly sends the gentle rain, drop by drop; and not one of these little drops ever forgets its errand—the pleasant errand upon which the good God sent it to the earth. "I have found you out," says the rain drop to the tiny grain of wheat; "though you are dead and in your grave, God has sent me to raise you up." Well, there is nothing impossible with Him; so when the rain-drop has done its errand, a spark of life shoots out from the very heart of the tiny grain, which makes its way out of the tomb and stands, a single blade, in the warm sunlight. That is nobly done; and if the great God pleased, he could make that little blade strong and fruitful in a single moment. Does He do this? No; little by little does the stalk wax strong; and its leaves grow slowly, leaf by leaf.

Is it not so with everything that is good? Should we like another way better? *Impatience* would.

It is only the other day I heard a little girl say, "I am tired, tired, tired! Here is a whole stocking to knit; stitch by stitch! It will never be done!"

"But was not this one knit stitch by stitch?" I asked, taking a long one from her basket, and holding it up.

"Yes."

"Well, this is done."

The little girl was counting instead of knitting her stitches. No wonder that she was tired.

Did you ever see a mason building a house of brick? "Poor man!" *Impatience* would say, "what an undertaking—to start from the earth, and go so far towards the sky, brick by brick!" O no sir. People can get nearer the sky than that, and upon the same principle too, only we call it step by step. Some little children know that the world has wandered far away from God. He meant that we should be happy; but mankind have chosen the path of disobedience and misery, and so lost their way; I mean the way back to holiness and peace. You know who came to be our way, so that we might not be forever lost. But even in this way we have to go step by step. Children should know this, so as not to be discouraged when they are trying to be good. Indeed this necessity of doing things little by little, step by step, drop by drop, need be no discouragement. Listen now, and see if you do hear a voice saying, "Try, try, try;" who ever saw a patient, persevering person try, and not succeed at last? So then, step by step, which is God's way, must be the best way.

Let us see that we do every day what we can. Any little boy or girl who, in looking back upon the day gone by, can say, "I have done one thing well," may be happy with the thought that they have taken one step in the way of wisdom and virtue. But remember one thing, dear little friends, the buried grain of wheat would never start into life if God did not send it help; and it is by the same help that it increases day by day. As the little rain-drop—God's beautiful messenger—descends into its tomb, so in the darkness and death of sin

the Holy Spirit comes to us. If He breathe upon our hearts, we live to do good. Let us obey this Spirit, and all good will be ours at last, though we gain it little by little.

Christina Observer.

## OUR CONSCRIPTS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF EUROPE.

Recent events have familiarized the people with the drafting laws of the United States. It may be a matter of interest to our citizens to compare them with those of foreign governments.

The regiments of England are generally filled by recruiting, but if these means fail, recourse is had to the ballot, and the requisite number is drawn from men between seventeen and twenty-five years of age. The time of service is five years, and in peace the men can be called out to exercise for from three to fifty-six days. In time of war the militia is placed on the same footing with the regular army.

The general conscription law of France embraces all between twenty and twenty-seven years of age. Substitutes can be offered. The term of service is four or five years, and a fourth part of the recruits are held as a reserve.

In Russia no substitute can be tendered; but a discharge can be purchased for a thousand rubies. Estate holders and the higher classes enjoy exemption. Under the banners all serfs become free. Russia presents almost all the appearance of a vast camp.

The laws of Turkey are, in many respects, similar to those of France. The ballot brings 25,000 men under the banners, each conscript order being made for a special district.

Sardinia requires universal service, from the twentieth year, the men being in two classes—the *ordinanza*, for eight years, uninterrupted, and the *privinziali*, for six. Substitutes are allowed.

Austria, with an army of 450,000 men, of whom 50,000 are cavalry, has but little need of severe drafting regulations. Her Cossacks, when 13,000 conscripts were demanded in 1858, marched 120,000 on Vienna. Men are liable, from twenty to fifty years of age, to serve in the field, and to sixty years, in domestic service.

The son of a Count performs military duty alongside of a tailor's apprentice, in the monarchy of Prussia. Such is the effect of the *Landwehr* system. The first levy is organized for immediate service, and is drawn from men between thirty-six and twenty-two years of age. The second levy includes those between thirty-two and thirty-nine years.

The States of the German Confederation have distinct laws. Saxony requires six years' service, with the privilege of substitution. Nassau, Mecklenburg, Shewerin and Oldenburg are the same. The laws of Wertemberg render men under thirty-two years liable to serve. Electoral Hesse allows substitutes, and requires citizens from twenty to thirty to take up arms. Brunswick requires seven years' service, with two years in the reserve.

The conscripts in Sweden are chosen from all those capable of bearing arms between twenty and twenty-five years of age. The classes are five in number.

The ballot in Denmark selects those who must serve eight years in the army, including two years in the reserve. The first levy includes those under thirty-eight years of age, and the second those under forty-five years.

Universal conscription is the law of Belgium. The ballot is used and substitutes are allowed. The term of service is eight years, of which about one-half is spent on furlough.

The war reserve of the Dutch is in three levies, including all those between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age who are capable of bearing arms.

A LIGHT OF A CHEERFUL FACE.—There is no greater every day virtue than cheerfulness. This quality in men, is like sunshine to the day, or gentle, renewing moisture to parched herbs. The light of a cheerful face diffuses itself, and communicates

the happy spirit that inspires it. The sourest temper must sweeten in the atmosphere of continuous good humor. As well might fog, and cloud, and vapor, hope to cling to the sun-illuminated landscape, as the blues and moroseness to combat jovial speech, and exhilarating laughter. Be cheerful, always. There is no path but will be easier traveled, no load but will lighten, no shadow on heart or brain but will lift sooner in the presence of a determined cheerfulness. It may, at times, seem difficult for the happiest tempered to keep the countenance of peace and content, but the difficulty will vanish, when we truly consider that sullen gloom and passionate despair do nothing but multiply thorns, and thicken sorrows. Ill comes to us provisionally as good—and is a good, if we rightly applied its lessons; why not then, cheerfully accept the ill, and thus blunt its apparent sting? If we are ill, let us be cheered by hopeful visions of better fortune—if death robs us of the dear ones, let us be cheered by the thought that they are only gone before, to the blissful bowers where we shall all meet to part no more forever.

Cultivate cheerfulness, if only for personal profit. You will do, and bear every duty and burthen better by being cheerful. It will be your consoler in solitude, your passport and commendator in society. You will be more sought after, more trusted and esteemed for your steady cheerfulness. The bad, the vicious, may be boisterously gay, and vulgarly humorous, but seldom or never truly cheerful. Genuine cheerfulness is an almost certain index of a happy mind, and a pure good heart.

SPECULATION IN LYNCHBURG.—The Republican has been informed of a transaction which took place in Lynchburg on Saturday last, which accounts for the extreme high prices that every article of value realizes. A party brought from the Valley four bales of woollen goods, each bale containing a thousand yards, which cost him \$24 per yard. It was held by him at \$6½ a yard, but nobody would purchase it at that price. After a time intelligence came from Richmond that \$9 a yard could be had for it there. One of the speculators here bought a bale of it at \$9 a yard, re-sold it to another party for \$10, he to a third at \$10½, and he resold it to a fourth at \$11, and he to a fifth at \$11½ per yard. All this was done in about two hours, and the last speculator went off and purchased the remaining three bales at \$11 per yard from the first party, and immediately resold the whole lot at \$12 per yard. Thus the speculators divided among themselves 5 or 6000 dollars. Pretty sharp practice this in the course of extortion.

USEFUL TO HOUSEKEEPERS.—Recent experiments in more than one family in this city established the fact that the plant commonly known as "water pepper," or "smart-weed," which may now be found in abundance along our ditches, roads, lanes and barnyards, is an effectual and certain destroyer of the bed bug. A strong decoction is made of the herb, and the places infested with the insect, washed thoroughly with it. The plant may also, with much advantage, be stuffed in the cracks and corners of the room. Elderberry leaves laid upon the shelves of a safe or cupboard will also drive away roaches and ants, while the common house fly will not venture in smelling distance of them. These simple remedies should be extensively used.

Betting is immoral, but how can the man who bets be any worse than the man who is no better.

Mat. Ward, who killed a teacher in Kentucky some years ago for correcting his brother in school, was recently killed in Arkansas, where he last resided. His farm was guarded by Yankee soldiers, under whose protection he was picking his cotton. The Confederates attacked the party, and Ward, who was dressed like the Yankees, was mistaken for one of them and killed.