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## THRO' WOODS AND PASTURES

### SOME HERBS OF THE GARRET.

Boneset, Life Everlasting, Catnip and Others Gathered For the Sick.

Who has been in the country often and cannot remember some dark garret or loft filled with the pungent, delightful odor of simple herbs gathered and hung there for use in sickness?

Among the best known of the herbs is the boneset, or thoroughwort. Along the fences and in the open fields it may be seen in full bloom early in August, the small white flowers closely clustered in a flat topped bunch looking like a drift of unseasonable snow strewn on the heads of these sturdy stems, which are about two feet high. The fairly large leaves are rather coarse, and the stalk is hairy in order to guard the flowers from the



Red Trillium.

visits of insects. If you once become acquainted with it in its natural state, you will never fail to know it, though the boneset proper is sometimes a little hard to recognize, for there are exactly twelve species of that individual family in the United States. Among them is the purple Joe Pye weed. Another is called the white snakeroot.

The life everlasting, or immortelle, and the catnip contribute most generously to the season's fragrance. The life everlasting has a way of seeming to be able to defy the first cold blasts, and it is so tenacious of life that its name is well deserved. Pearly immortelle is perhaps its proper name, for it has sisters and requires the adjective to distinguish it.

Though it is in its prime in August and September, in November you will find it seeming the same as ever, but if you look closely you will perceive that it has no centers in its flowers. Its parts were so loosely put on in the center that they were blown away by the first wind. But all of these little dry pieces were real flowers, and their mission having been accomplished in the fruition of the seeds, they were no longer necessary. In fact, it was the desirable end for them to be carried away and scattered widely.

The catnip is said to be so named because of the fondness cats have for it, though the softness of the gray hairs on its spikes and the small, grayish lavender flowers set among the hairs are most suggestive of a Maltese cat.

Closely related to it and growing in the same kind of places is the motherwort. Its green parts are not fragrant, like the catnip, and it is not woody. Its leaves have three great scallops. It does not grow so tall as the catnip, and the flowers are prettier, often being a delicate pink.

Slippery elm—there are people who like to eat it! It is the inner part of the slippery elm, a small, common tree having reddish wood and rather rough leaves.

There is the pennyroyal, the low but erect plant with the small, pale bluish flowers. Oil of pennyroyal we buy in the drug stores to use against our bloodthirsty robbers of slumber, the mosquitoes. There are several species, the false and the true, but the pleasant odor of the pennyroyal is unusually far-reaching. We do not need to look to learn of its presence. One's nose gives sufficient warning.

Perhaps it is just as well to treat of some other members of that great sister family to which the pennyroyal belongs. There is the wild mint, which is not so far from home. Another story tells us of the celebrated pepper

The old Greek legend tells that Proserpine, the wife of Pluto, the king of the underground world, changed a rival, Mentha, into this plant, from which comes the mental as well as the peppermint which flavors our candies.

Ginseng, once abundant, but now becoming very rare on account of the great quantities which have been gathered for their roots, is almost worth its weight in gold. Most of it goes to the Chinese, who ascribe to it the virtues of the fountain of youth and the power of curing all the ills to which man is heir. The flowers are a yellowish green and top with a cluster a stem about a foot high. On either side, springing from the same base, are two stems, spreading out at the top into leaflets which at a passing glance might be taken for part of a five leaved ivy, or Virginia creeper. Some of the plants have only stamens and the others only pistils. Of course only those with pistils bear the fruit, a close bunch of beautiful scarlet berries.

Related to ginseng are the spikenard and the false spikenard, or, to put it more properly, the wild sarsaparilla, which is sought for its roots.

The root of the wild sarsaparilla is singularly long, and the proper stalk is but a few inches high. The leaves are compound, and there are but a few on each stalk, so that when a number are growing together and have the most part but three leaflets they much resemble the poisonous three leaved ivy, or poison oak, though the leaves of the wild sarsaparilla are rougher, their edges are well toothed, and they also have a decided brownish hue. Those of the poison ivy are a rich green, are sometimes much more deeply indented and may be downy underneath.

The spikenard is a handsome plant, growing to the height of several feet. It has not the beauty of the mountain laurel, but it certainly presents a striking appearance, especially in August, when its berries have become a lovely deep red.

Its flowers and fruit recall the well known elder, for the blossoms are small and white, in size and arrangement much like the elder, though they are piled in a pyramidal instead of a flat cluster. The berries, which follow later, are similar outwardly, though they never attain the very dark hue of the elderberries. Their taste is delicious.

An insignificant addition to the list is the figwort, though Gray and other authorities on botany regard it as so important a representative of its kind that they have named a family after it. All through August it may be found along fences and in pastures. The figwort rises to about the height of a person. Though its stem is sturdy and its leaves are large, some nearly a foot long, it is a very dull green, and its flowers are so small that they are hardly noticeable unless you are searching especially for them. They have five dull claret colored petals, each bending back in a different direction, but each is so small and short that the corolla seems swallowed up in the green enveloping calyx. They come in clusters of a few at each end of the various branches. Its titles are numerous—beal all, carpenter's square and Maryland figwort.

It may seem strange that some of the familiar early spring comers are included in this list, but they are. These may not always be found in the old fashioned garret, but there are some with a strong odor which do belong there and have not been described—the wormwood, the marjoram and the sage. The last two, however, are associated with the garden.

The spring flowers are the Jack-in-the-pulpit and the Solomon's seal, the mandrake and the trillium. Both the large flowered trilliums are sought, though the evil smelling red ones are most desired. That color is also one of Nature's economies. It is an advertisement for flies, which seek it as they will putrid meat and in their brief visits transact the necessary operation of transferring the pollen and dropping it upon the pistils. Its root stalk is sought for medicine.

Early in the spring the mandrake, or May apple, pierces the soil with its blunt green head. In April its umbrella leaves unfold for the showers, and in May the round white waxen flowers nestle in the one axil beneath the umbrella. It is pure white, with a yellow center. The yellow, paipy apples are ripe in August, to the delight of birds and small boys.

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Quite Natural.  
Investigation of a child's ability in the matter of identification conducted in a German school showed that the girls described a man's clothes with more or less accuracy, but said nothing of his face, while the boys just as accurately described his face, but could tell nothing of his clothes.

## ROOSEVELT WILL NOT ARBITRATE

### BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND POWERS.

No Intimation of Conditions Precedent To Arbitration.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—President Roosevelt will not be the arbitrator of the Venezuelan controversy. The whole vexatious subject will be referred for adjudication to the Hague tribunal. Evidently, this was the situation as it had resolved itself at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting today. The meeting was not so long as the sessions of the cabinet usually are. All the members except Secretary Root were present. The Venezuelan question was the principal and practically the only topic of general concern under consideration. Secretary Root presented the result of his able correspondence with the governments at London, Berlin, Rome and Caracas. In accordance with the suggestion made several days ago by President Roosevelt, through Secretary Hay, President Castro, of Venezuela, was reported to have agreed to submit the difference in the case between his government and the European powers to the arbitration of the tribunal at The Hague. The European powers not only consented to submit the controversy to arbitration, but while they had expressed a preference for an arbitration to be conducted by President Roosevelt, they had assented to his suggestion that the matter be referred to The Hague.

The presentation of the case met the hearty approval of the members of the cabinet. No hint is expressed by the administration that the Monroe doctrine will be brought into the controversy in any manner that might result in an embarrassing situation for the United States. Secretary Hay is preparing a note to the powers in which the gratification of this government is expressed for the course agreed upon by the powers in the settlement of the pending difficulty.

No intimation is given of the conditions which may have been imposed by the European powers or by President Castro precedent to the arbitration. It is known that Great Britain was willing to submit the subject to the arbitration of President Roosevelt practically without conditions, but the suggestion is made that one and perhaps two of the other powers involved proposed some conditions which might have proved embarrassing to the president had he undertaken the responsibility of determining the question.

It is understood that some money must pass, but it also is known that the amount of cash to be required of Venezuela before arbitration is not nearly so large as has been stated. It is not possible to learn either whether the allies insist upon apologies from Castro or, while it is assumed that the blockade will be speedily raised, no arrangement to that end has yet been made. The energies of the negotiators are now being devoted to the framing of what will be known as a condition protocol and it is hoped that while this class of document does not undertake to closely define a provision to be presented it will still contain a provision for the removal of the blockade.

### AWFUL LOSS OF LIFE.

Twenty-Six or Thirty People Killed on the Colorado and Southern.

Triplid, Colo., Dec. 26.—A coal miner from north of Triplid, who was taken out of the debris of the Colorado and Southern freight wreck north of Triplid last night and died a short time later, said just before expiring that there were fourteen coal miners beside himself in the car in which he was riding, and which was smashed to splinters. The ruins of this car still remain under tons of wreckage. All the men in it must have perished. It is now estimated that the number of dead will reach from twenty-five to thirty. All of the men in the wrecked car were going to Triplid to spend Christmas. They all came from coal-mining camps north of this city.

Prospectors for oil and gas are beginning to begin active operations in Hancock county. Wells will be bored in the vicinity of Beaver Dam, a few miles north of Asheville. Prospectors are much encouraged over the outlook.

If you feel ill and need a pill why not purchase the best Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People? Take one—try 'em the rest.

W. H. Howell, Houston, Tex., writes—I have used Little Early River Pills in my family for constipation, sick headache, etc. To their use I am indebted for the health of my family. J. E. Green.

A Stylish Waist.  
This stylish model is a modification of the popular Gibson style and may be made as plain or fancy as desired. The novel closing is extremely chic, and an inverted box plait gives greater width to the sleeve. The lace yoke, as shown in the illustration, is faced on



the lining and may be made of any suitable material. Velvet associated with embroidered applique, with chemise of lace and silk, is elegant, although cloth or silk simply finished with stitching is advised for ordinary wear. The medium size will require two and one-half yards of material forty-four inches wide.

Black and White.  
Handsome black costumes are appearing constantly, and they have never been so attractive. Many of the latest models are combined with white. One has a skirt box plaited three-quarters of the way down from the hips, and white satin is set in each box plait. The coat is a Russian blouse coming to a decided point in the front and fitting the figure closely in the back. Up the back and down the front of the revers and collar is a design in white satin cut out and etched. With this is worn a white liberty blouse inset with medallions of black cluny lace.

The Popular Redingote.  
Skirts are worn tightly around the hips, as heretofore, by the Parisienne, but on condition that they are accompanied by a redingote, or long coat, tight fitting to the waist. These redingotes are very becoming to the tall, slender figure and should be trimmed with heavy braid, mohair frogs or silk crocheted drops which follow the front fastening and decorate the revers and sailorlike collar. They should not be made with standing collars. The open throat is protected by a fur box, one of the broad, flat boxes, or collarettes.

Hats For Little Girls.  
Children's hats are very large this winter, and white beavers trimmed with ostrich tips or with Dresden ribbon are the favorite mode for mothers who can indulge in what they wish for their darlings. These white hats, especially white felts, are expensive, as they are exceedingly difficult to manufacture.  
Charming Where It Suits.  
The three cornered hat is again in vogue and is perfectly charming where it suits. It seems to harmonize admirably with the old fashioned stock and cravat, and the low coiffure of the moment is certainly not far removed in style from the wigs of old.

Pajamas For Little Girls.  
Following in their fathers' and brothers' footsteps, little girls now wear pajamas, and very snug and comfortable they are too.  
They can be made very pretty, dainty little garments if proper care is exercised when choosing the fannel. A cunning one recently made is of pale



A PINKED SUIT.  
Blue, embroidered in pink. It is also work, and many a mother will enjoy making the soft little pajamas which will keep the little daughter warm and snug through the cold winter nights.

## OLD NORTH STATE NEWS AND GOSSIP

### ODD AND INTERESTING HAPPENINGS.

Clipped and Rehashed From Our North Carolina Exchanges.

There are 100 free delivery routes in the State—an increase of 100 per cent. over last year.

In Warren county two men have held the office of clerk of the court for 82 years. One who died in 1867 had held the office 48 years and his successor has held it since then.

By a recent order of the authorities two hundred postal clerks on the Southern Railway, who have formerly had their headquarters at Charlotte, will be transferred, after January 1st, to Greensboro.

In a row at Alexander's, ten miles from Asheville, Christmas morning, a man named Fox was shot and, it is said, fatally injured, by a young man named Candler, of Madison, son of ex-Sheriff Candler, of that county. Candler was arrested, but later effected his escape.

A correspondent of the Lumberton Robesonian says that Mr. John Caldwell, of the St. Paul's community, in Robeson county, killed five wild geese at one shot a few days ago, and one of the geese weighed nine pounds and measured five feet from tip to tip.

Chatham Record: Four men v. 3-d in Hickory Mountain township at the last election, whose united ages amounted to 349 years and all voted the straight Democratic ticket. Their names and ages are as follows: Samuel B. Perry, 90 years old; A. S. Dowd, 88 years; Oliver McMath, 87 years, and Hugh W. Peoples, 84 years.

Fire at Tule Christmas night destroyed the Atlantic Coast Line passenger and freight station, a warehouse used by the Albemarle Navigation Co., and four box cars, one of them empty. The blaze began about 9 o'clock. Hard fighting was necessary in order to save the warehouse and foot bridge over the Chowan river. The fire is believed to have started from a stove. Loss \$4,000.

Newborn special, 26: The body of the negro, Hardy Williams, who was drowned off Trent river bridge Wednesday night, was hauled ashore yesterday evening. The fact that cord was found wrapped around his feet justifies the suspicion that Williams may have been the victim of foul play. After an investigation by a coroner's jury it was found that his death was accidental.

A correspondent of the Atlanta Constitution says the town of Saluda, in Polk county, 2,500 feet above sea level, and heretofore a sort of summer resort, is going to become a manufacturing town, capitalists having bought water power where the river pitches down a rocky stairway 700 feet in half a mile, which will generate electricity to carry in to the town to run factories.

Bas-relief Post: There is an old relic in Bladen county in the way of a clock that has been running since soon after the revolutionary war. It was brought here by a Frenchman named Ledger, and was made in England. It is seven feet high, is richly decorated with brass and has brass works in a fine mahogany or walnut case. It shows that men of old times had artistic taste. The clock is in the hands of its fourth owner, Mr. C. I. Davis, and is not more than seven miles from where it was opened.

Asheville special, 25: At Biltmore House this afternoon the hundred employees of Vanderbilt's estate were given a most elaborate Christmas entertainment. Exercises were held in the banquet hall of the Biltmore House. In the center of the hall was the largest holly tree to be found on the Vanderbilt estate, a mammoth tree that towered to the ceiling of the immense room. At one end of the hall was a large star made of hundreds of incandescent lights. Beneath a Christmas tree were stacked presents of every conceivable nature. There was a gift for every person who worked or stayed on the estate. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt, with their own hands, distributed gifts to the assembled guests and wished each a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Music was furnished throughout the afternoon by the First North Carolina Regiment band.

The contest over the postoffice at Washington has taken a turn which points to George B. Buckman as the gentleman on whom the mantle of Postmaster General will fall. This is not at all as the present postmaster would have it, for while Mr. B. has made a somewhat preliminary effort to retain the office, his energies have been principally against

the proposition to make Mr. Buckman his successor. An inspector was sent to Washington a few days ago by the post-office department, and that agent has made a formal report of his observations there. Mr. Buckman once before held the office he is now seeking, and while in that position sold, and subsequently rented a number of the letter boxes in the city. The inspector practically exonerates Mr. Buckman of any wrongdoing, by filing papers with the department that show that the boxes were sold to patrons to pay for their original purchase, and that the custom had been followed by some of Mr. Buckman's predecessors. Mr. Buckman will, however, have to refund to the citizens of Washington about \$300 which he obtained in the manner indicated, which will fix his status as an available candidate. He has Senator Pritchard's endorsement.

## Night Adventure In A Southern Swamp

Odd places, curious people and especially novel experiences have a great fascination for Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt, and during her last trip to this country she found in the city of New Orleans much to interest her.

Most of her afternoons during the week's engagement in the Crescent City were spent in the quaint creole quarters. On one of her jaunts she happened to stroll into an alligator vender's establishment in a dingy thoroughfare known as Charters street.

While Mrs. Bernhardt was in the alligator store gazing interestedly at the pens filled with wriggling, squirming little alligators Delyette, a long, lean, mud covered, sunburned "Cajun," whose whole attire consisted of a blue shirt, a pair of trousers rolled up to the knees and a palmetto hat, entered with a sack over his shoulder containing half a hundred little black creatures about twelve inches long. He had paddled his perogue (canoe) in through the bayous (canals) to the city with his week's collection of baby "gators."

The fellow's French attracted Mrs. Bernhardt's attention, and she was soon in conversation with him, asking about his queer business and way of living.

Finally Delyette invited his new acquaintance to go with him on a chase. Mrs. Bernhardt eagerly accepted, and a few evenings later, clad in a regular hunting suit, with a short skirt and high boots, she and three of her friends boarded the little electric train for the summer resort of West End, on Lake Pontchartrain.

Arrived at a known haunt of the alligators in a dark creek fringed with tall reeds, blue torches were lit in the canoes and a search begun at the water's edge for "gator" holes. In a few minutes a bunch of three was found.

Mrs. Bernhardt was particularly anxious to capture an alligator for herself, and so, under the guidance of the hunter, she laid a noose of stout rope about one of the holes.

One of the hunters gave a low, weird snort which sounded as if far off in the distance. In the stillness of the night and amid those dreary wastes it sounded most eerie. In a few moments there was another cry as if nearer, then another, and the noise was repeated until at last there came a violent roar, ending in a spluttering among the weeds at the water's edge exactly as though a huge reptile had just landed from a lone swim. It was a most clever piece of mimicry.

Mrs. Bernhardt, who had hold of her rope, ready to give the jerk when the creature should pass into the noose, was suddenly apprised of the fact that the critical moment had come.

There was a slight jerk on her rope. She turned quickly and saw a monster alligator crawling out of the hole. Instantly she jerked the rope, tightening the loop about the creature's middle.

The huge saurian roared with rage and tore furiously around the tree to which he found himself tied. He traveled faster than any of the party, although they fed better skelter in all directions. The visitors had just time to get out of the way as the creature swept past them, his tail swinging from side to side dangerously and his great jaws snapping viciously.

The alligator could have bitten the rope in two with one snap of his jaws, but he hadn't sense enough for that.

Presently the strain began to tell, his wild rushes slackened, and soon he lay almost exhausted.

A heavy pine board was now laid near him. He was tangled up as much as possible in the rope, and when all danger from his jaws and tail was past he was bound securely to the plank, and the noose around his body was cut.

The plank and its burden were carried to one of the boats, and the other animal being similarly secured, the party started homeward.

Mrs. Bernhardt's alligator proved to be a ten footer and weighed 275 pounds. The hunter got \$1.25 a foot for the prize, or \$12.50 for the big animal.