

Messages In Plants

A Man and a Girl Converse Through Flowers.

By ETHEL HOLMES

Ethan Atwater was a well educated young man, with a fortune, good looks, good health and a good mind. His occupation was both occupation and amusement. He studied and did some scribbling, occasionally sending very pretty verses to magazines.

Atwater lived in a small place, but a very old one. Many of the dwellings stood alone and often in the center of large grounds. His house was quaint, and the grounds were a marvel of good taste. On entering his study one would immediately be impressed with the fact that it had been furnished and decorated by an artist with an exquisite sense for harmony in color.

Through the window appeared grounds that had evidently been arranged by a landscape gardener. Both the artist and the gardener were Ethan Atwater. Atwater had been drawn to one or two different women at different times, but had sooner or later discovered something in one or the other to offend his sensitive taste, something that either smacked of coarseness or an absence of idealism. Not that he was a sentimental man. He may rather be called a man of sentiment. The sentimental was as repulsive to him as coarseness.

On Atwater's return from a journey he found that the place next adjoining his on the east had changed hands. The same day he saw a young lady go into the house whose appearance struck him favorably. Her apparel was in good taste. Her hat appeared to have been made neither for a giant nor a dwarf. The colors of which her costume were composed were subdued. Her face, too, spoke of innate refinement.

It was in the autumn that Atwater first saw this girl, and nearly every day after that he observed her either going out or coming in or at a window. His first impulse was to assume the privilege of a neighbor and go in and call on the newcomers, but it occurred to him that he would take pleasure in studying the girl from the brief distance that separated their abodes. One of his theories was that a refined person could not be unrefined; that an ideal person could not be commonplace. If she were both ideal and refined she would show her idealism and refinement to him without an acquaintance. If there was a lack of either he would be able to detect it without speaking to her or being spoken to by her.

Within a few weeks he had witnessed acts on the part of his neighbor indicating traits that he considered unusual in it not essential to a refined nature. He saw her receive a child who came to her house and knew at once that her heart was aimed at children. He was standing at a window when she attended an old lady to her carriage and was sure that she sympathized with the aged. There were but individual instances of Atwater's observations, no one of which was of supreme importance, but all taken together indicated nature such as he could admire and revere.

Then he went away for awhile. When he returned he made a discovery. The young lady next door did not appear either in the grounds or at a window. He began to fear that he had seen her for the last time. That fear was akin to pain. He was tempted to make inquiries, but knew no one to ask. After a week of chafing one afternoon he saw her drive up to the house in a carriage and received with demonstrations of affection by the other members of the family. Atwater longed to jump out of the window and take her in his arms himself. But this was an impulse that didn't count for or against his natural idiosyncrasies.

Later he made another discovery similar to the first. He saw a very handsome young man leave the house next door and the young lady follow him out to the gate, apparently loath to have him depart. This time it was revealed to him not only that the young lady was a person of interest to him, but that he objected to her being of interest to any other man. From this point she ceased to be a matter of study by observation. She was to be appropriated.

My story up to this point has been very one-sided, and it must continue to be so. It is not to be supposed that a girl may be under constant observation by a young man next door without some observation on the part of the girl. Atwater had never seen her looking at him, though he had never failed to look at her whenever she appeared. Had he caught her doing so he would have considered her as overstepping the bounds set for a modest young woman. That she did not do so convinced him that she did not consider him worth looking at.

One morning in March Atwater saw a man digging up the soil in the yard in the adjoining grounds. It was plain that the ground was not intended for vegetables, but for flowers. In another week the young lady came out with a few light garden implements and a dainty little basket full of seeds and began to plant.

A few days later Atwater spaded a flower bed in his own grounds and planted seeds. His garden was protected on three sides by bush plants, but could be observed by the neighbor

on the east. A warm wave germinated the seeds in both gardens, and the green lines were soon visible. Nothing unusual was to be noticed in the lady's garden, but in Atwater's a careful observer would have seen lines of tender green in which could be traced the letters "I Love You."

As soon as his letters were large enough to be read from the next house the young man kept a constant watch with a view to discovering whether they were observed. Days passed, and the delicate lines were lost in the exuberance of the growth, but never did the planter see a face at the window. His declaration had been seen it had not met with any response.

Atwater argued in this wise: If she has seen the flower words and is a person of idealty, refinement and kindness she will make a reply even if unfavorable. So he waited and watched. Weeks passed, and neither the heavens, the air nor the earth gave a sign. Atwater's idealty was giving way before the impatience of love, and he was about to try some more commonplace method. Then one morning when the air was clear and the sun was shining on the garden opposite he fancied he saw in a new growth just appearing above the soil that which might be letters, but since it came up unevenly he could not be sure at so great a distance. In another moment he had a pair of glasses leveled at the flower bed. The only growth that looked like letters spelled "No."

Atwater was momentarily discouraged. But it was evident that there was more coming up which might change what appeared to be a refusal. Again the impatience of love impelled him to push for an immediate response, but his idealty again triumphed. He concluded to wait. Realizing how he should suffer watching for a response to his message to grow out of the ground, he absented himself for a time. He returned late at night, and the next morning, to his satisfaction, he saw plainly letters in the adjoining garden to read, "I Know You Not."

It is high time that we should have a view of what is transpiring in this ideal affair from the other side of the garden wall. Miss Edith MacGregor was looking out of her window one morning when she saw a young man leave the next house and saunter down the street. It was enough for her that he was nice looking and that he lived next door. Unlike Atwater, whose musings on first seeing her were what she might be, she amused on something to happen and, womanlike, at once decided to place herself on the vantage ground of invisibility—that is, she would not be seen within doors and she would appear unconscious of the fact that a nice looking young man lived in the house next door.

While Atwater was assuming that she did not consider him worth looking at she was constantly observing him from a dark room that she had fitted up for that especial purpose. Nevertheless when at a window she took care not to look into the adjoining place and never appeared at all except when becomingly dressed.

And so it was that Miss MacGregor was perfectly aware that Mr. Atwater admired her before he supposed she was aware of his existence, and she knew he had been pierced by one of Cupid's arrows before he knew it himself. She had concluded to have a garden that they might have an excuse to meet with only a hedge between them, and when he planted seeds to spell "I Love You" she had seen the letters traced out in the soil before the seeds were put in the drills. Moreover, she had purposely planted in her response the letters "No!" in this soil in order that they might grow up before the others to give her lover a temporary disappointment.

Miss MacGregor knew very well that Mr. Atwater was a man of an ideal nature both from his face, which she had carefully studied with a glass, and from his method of making love. She did not therefore propose to destroy any illusions he might have. She knew very well that no man in love will be long satisfied with communications that must take the time necessary to grow out of the ground, and awaited her lover's next move. So when she received a note begging permission to begin a correspondence on paper she replied that it would be a pity to descend from beautiful and natural letters to artificial ones made with a combination of chemicals.

To this Mr. Atwater replied that, while the flower words were beautiful and not usual, they were very slow, and he made a request to be allowed to call.

Miss MacGregor delayed to reply to this note, but a day or two later appeared in her garden with a small watering pot. Atwater saw her and lost no time in watering her plants with the garden tools. The lady was watering her plants when, hearing a sound, she looked up with well feigned surprise to see her lover craning his neck over the hedge. He remarked that the plants needed rain, and she replied that there seemed to be no sign of rain.

Atwater looked for an opening in the hedge, but did not find any. In the rear there was a fence bounding both properties, and, getting on top of it, he passed the hedge. He was very much rattled. The girl was perfectly cool. She talked about her flowers as though there was no other subject in existence. But presently she invited him to inspect some that were in the house, and they passed in together. Then and there they began the speech where they had left off in the language of flowers.

Mr. Atwater has long been a married man, but he found, he fondly believes, that he attracted the attention of his wife and won her love by having declared his own in flower words.

WHY The Soldier Must Have An Emergency Ration

AMERICAN MEDICINE comments on the soldier's ration, and more particularly on the emergency ration of hardtack and sweet chocolate suggested by Doctor Vedder. It weighs only one pound, but gives the soldier the proper amount of food on which to carry on the work required of him. The writer says: "The problem of rationing the soldier is of the utmost importance, not merely for the purpose of preserving his physical health, but of conserving his military effectiveness. Regardless of what the civil population subsidizes upon, the rationing of the soldier must not be reduced so as to curtail the food requirements."

"It oftentimes becomes necessary to send in advance scouting parties for whom adequate food supplies cannot be prepared to be carried by them. To meet such military exigencies an emergency ration is essential. "As Vedder has pointed out in the Military Surgeon, an emergency ration must be balanced and possess a reasonable energy value and tissue-building power. Palatability must not be sacrificed. Its bulk must be minimal in order to prevent the ration from serving as a drag upon the soldier, already weighed down by his essential military appurtenances. The food must be of such a character that it will not readily deteriorate, while at the same time it must be cheap and readily purchasable."

"Vedder has suggested as an emergency ration ten ounces of hardtack and six ounces of sweet chocolate. The total weight of the ration is one pound, while it supplies approximately 2,100 calories, of which 190 calories arise from protein sources."

"A man resting in bed requires 1,800 calories per day to satisfy the normal heat and energy requirements of bodily function. According to Chittenden on a low protein diet, 260 calories from protein are provided with a total of 2,854 calories for the 24 hours. The haversack ration as at present constituted supplies approximately 4,500 calories per day, with 480 calories arising from protein elements. This ration naturally provides the due and proper amount indicated for soldiers engaged in hard work."

"The emergency ration suggested is not liberal in character, and, in fact, materially reduces the total food required for the soldier, but this is merely for emergency purposes, and should not actually interfere to a great extent with the physical health of the consumer, provided that it is utilized merely in emergencies. It is patent that the bulk is not excessive, and that the foods suggested are cheap, generally available, palatable and resistant to deterioration."

BASKET-NET FOR FISHERMAN

How Angler Can Catch Minnows and Small Fish for Bait.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty that the amateur fisherman encounters on his expeditions is the securing of live minnows and small fish in any stream. The frame of the net is made from six tempered spring steel rods. To this the netting is attached with rust-proof clips. In the center of the netting is the bait pocket, in which bread, meat or other bait is placed to attract the minnows. When the net is lifted, the weight of the contents causes it to "bag," so that the minnows will not escape over the sides.

When the net snags or when, for some other reason, it is subjected to extraordinary strain, the six tempered steel rods bend inward and downward until all but one of the rings by which the net is attached to the frame slip out of the hooks. This collapsing of the frame frees the net from the snag and releases the strain. The inventor claims, however, that the net will not collapse except under extraordinary strain, which if resisted would damage the net. It folds up into a compact little bundle, which is scarcely noticeable among the fisherman's "traps."

Why Girl Messengers Are Failures

With one or two exceptions, girls who have tried lately to replace messenger boys in New York have failed. Too much walking, too many display windows and the inability to stand the gibes of messengers of the other sex, and dislike of a uniform are the stumbling blocks which have tripped them. Because of a dearth of boys due to school starting and calls to "higher up" jobs, the telegraph companies advertised for girls. They wanted "girls over 16 for light work, steady employment." Many girls who didn't know what they were getting into answered. One office was able to persuade three to go to work, and another got five. After the first day there was one girl left in each office. Too much time lost looking into windows, the strain of walking all day and the taunts of boys working with them took the others. The employers of girl messengers are not discouraged, however, and believe by elimination they may finally get a good working force.

How to Make a Furniture Polish

A good furniture polish. Equal quantities of common wax, white wax and white soap in the proportion of one ounce of each to a pint of water. Out the ingredients fine and dissolve over a fire until well mixed. Bottle and label.

HOW BILLY RUMORS GAIN CURRENCY

Who starts the silly rumors? Dr. Charles A. Mercier, the celebrated brain specialist, asks the question in a prominent London daily and then proceeds to evolve his own answer. He does it something like this: "Shakespeare has spoken of rumor as necessarily false. "Rumor is a pipe blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures; And of so easy and so plain a stop That the blunt monster with uncounted heads, The still discordant multitude, Can play upon it."

"Rumor" is a common term in India, says Doctor Mercier, and bazaar rumors are sometimes true. Indeed, there are fairly well authenticated instances of rumors of important events being communicated with incredible speed to very great distances, both in India and in Africa; and these rumors, though usually vague, have sometimes been true in material particulars.

"Thus it is said that the outbreak of the Indian mutiny was current as a 'bazaar rumor' days before the news could have traveled by any means then known in distant parts of India."

"Falsity is not a cardinal feature of rumor. "It never originates in a newspaper, even in a paragraph communicated 'with all reserve.' "Rumor is very generally believed."

"A wish, a hope, a forecast, a probability, a supposition on some subject of intense and universal interest is expressed and, perhaps, imperfectly heard. The gist of the matter makes an impression so strong as to swamp the preparatory phrase. It is repeated from mouth to mouth with increasing assurance and lessening diffidence. Its interest is so intense that everyone who hears it is eager to repeat it and cannot wait to be sure that he has got the story right, and so the rumor spreads."

Doctor Mercier adds that "Dance Rumor" should be a subject of psychological study.

WEDDINGS ON SHORT NOTICE

New Missionaries in the Early Days Obtained Their Wives.

There is a touch of comedy about the businesslike way in which several of the early missionaries went to work to obtain wives before they left the shores of New England, writes the Rev. Francis E. Clark in Youth's Companion. The call to go to Hawaii was somewhat sudden and imperative. As a rule, only one vessel that would take passengers sailed in the course of a year for Honolulu, and of course it went by the way of Cape Horn. Often not more than a few days or weeks elapsed between the decision of the young theologian to accept the commission of the American board and the sailing of the packet ship. But the rule of the board was that the applicants must be married before they sailed for the field. "Ay, there was the rub, for in many cases they had not decided whom to ask to be their brides."

But the time and tide would not wait for a long courtship, and so brothers or cousins or roommates were asked to intercede with eligible maidens, whom perhaps the prospective bridegrooms had never seen. It is even said that the young theologians haunted "femate seminaries," and that the good, pretty and pious girls were lined up for their inspection.

Although this may be an exaggeration, it is certain that several of the brides who in the early days went with their missionary husbands to Hawaii were wooed by proxy, at least during the preliminary stages of the wooing. "It should be added that, so far as is known, all those marriages turned out most happily, both for the young couples and for the work in which they were engaged. Their high purpose, their common sacrifice and their great mission in life drew them close together."

Why Colors Are Associated With Various Characteristics

The association of colors with mental characteristics is a subject of much interest. It is founded on an easily traced analogy. Black is associated with crime because black represents darkness, which widely serves as a cover for crime and is also representative of ignorance, which is the real cause of crime. White stands for purity because it represents light, or enlightenment, and also, perhaps, because it represents cleanliness and freedom from blemish. And it is easy to see why red should represent courage, because it is the color of blood and may be taken to signify vitality. Also a courageous man is supposed to be willing to shed his blood, if necessary, in the defense of right and justice.

How to Remove Egg Stains

Egg stains on table linens should be soaked in cold water before being sent to the laundry. The stains will come out quite easily if treated in this way. Hot water "sets" them, and makes them difficult to remove.

RAISE FIVE VICE PRESIDENTS

Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson, Arthur and Roosevelt Succeeded as Death of the President

Five vice presidents of the United States have on the death of the president succeeded to the higher office. The first president to die while in office was William Henry Harrison, grand father of Benjamin Harrison of Indiana. His death occurred April 4, 1841, just one month after his inauguration. The vice president, John Tyler, then at his country home in Virginia, was officially notified of the event and on reaching Washington, at once took the oath of office as president.

As this was the first case of the kind there was much discussion for a time in and out of congress as to Tyler's proper title—that is, whether he was vice president of the United States acting as president or president. It was finally conceded on all sides that the language of the Constitution is clear that on the death of the president in office the vice president becomes, in name as in fact, president. The framers of the Constitution did not leave the door open for trouble that might arise regarding the legality of acts done by an "acting president."

On the death of President Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850, Vice President Millard Fillmore succeeded to the presidency and was at a later date an unsuccessful candidate for election to the office. Andrew Johnson, the third vice president to succeed to the higher office, took the oath April 15, 1865, the day after the assassination of President Lincoln. President Garfield was shot July 2, 1881, and died the following September 19, and was immediately succeeded by Vice President Chester A. Arthur. Vice President Roosevelt succeeded President McKinley, who died September 14, 1901, and was the only one of five vice presidents that succeeded to the office who was subsequently elected to it.

SING TO SETTLE QUARRELS

Hakimas Have Peculiar Manner of Adjusting Their Grievances—Enemy Must Listen

The Hakimas, who live in the island, barros Northland, have a way of settling quarrels which seems very strange and amusing to those who live in a land of peace and order of justice. There, when quarrels arise, the man who has a grievance writes a song in which he tells the wrong that has been done him. When this has been composed to his satisfaction, he writes his enemy to come and hear him sing it. Then the enemy must do, and he brings with him all his relatives and many of his friends, while the singer also has gathered his friends and relatives for the occasion, which is considered something of a general entertainment by the people of the village in which the men live.

Then, while other men of the village pound merrily on huge drums, the song of wrongs is begun. When it is finished, if the audience expresses approval, the singer is considered to have won and to have a just cause of complaint. But if dissatisfaction is expressed, that is considered sufficient punishment. After the song everyone dances and the party breaks up in great good humor.

Do Big Jobs First

The more you ponder difficulties the harder they seem. So the thing is to get them off the slate as soon as possible. You get them off by going after them. Just cast up the work of the day. Estimate the toll in each problem. Tackle the hardest one before you are tired. That may not be according to precedent, but it's according to good generalship. As soon as you get that off the list tackle the next thing in importance. Keep the work going and you're bound to win victories over self and the job you face. Soon there won't be any real problems to annoy you. It will just be a matter of attacking things in the best order. You have gone a long way toward mastery when you have learned to do big things first.—Grit.

Icelanders as Emigrants

It is claimed for the Icelanders who emigrate that they have played a small part in the progress and prosperity of the province of Manitoba, Canada, and it is asserted that the story of the Swedish population of Winnipeg must necessarily begin with the Icelandic. He has set the pace for all the incoming races. He is the illustration par excellence of how a people of ambition and industry can master difficulties, triumph over prejudice, and attain their desired place in the commercial, the political, the intellectual and the social life of a hustling and growing city in a strange land. Outside the city it is not unusual to find Icelanders with farms of 1,000 acres.

Benny-Locks' Precitation

Stephen called to see the new Jersey calf, so he was taken out to the pasture where it was. The week-old calf was at one end of the lot looking through the bars, while the mother, old Benn, was as far the opposite side as she could get, pining into space. After waiting some time for a display of affection between mother and daughter Stephen looked up with a puzzled expression and said: "What's the matter with that cow, uncle? Don't she 'prelate that calf?"

Stunning

"Oh, Miss, your new gowns and hats are stunning!" "Yes, Alfred hasn't recovered yet from the shock the bill gave him."

Possible Origin of Shirts

There are many theories as to the origin of shirts, but one that is very common is from a veteran of the War of 1812 who followed Nicholas through the back of Delhi.

During the War of 1812, it is said, it was noticed that the white drill uniforms of the regiment then known as the "Dirty Shirts" the first American Bengal battalion of the old company's service, proved excellent wear in the moonlight for the enemy never seems who held the city.

The men were told, therefore, to darken them by any means they could find. Their method was to boil the uniforms in the "dishes" or regimental kettles in which tea was made, together with bark stripped from the trees in the neighborhood, which made a fairly satisfactory brown dye.

Poverty in China

A wealthy Chinese money lender in Manchuria was convicted of making false declarations regarding robbery of his caravans by Mongolian bandits. His conscience troubled him to such an extent that he offered to contribute an annual sum of \$750 for the relief of the poor. This money was made the basis of a fund for feeding the helpless at Kungshuling.

Manchuria is agriculturally rich, the mineral and agricultural riches extracted from its soil and rocks, all of which products are shipped abroad. There are probably thousands of industrious natives unable by unskilled labor to earn more than a meager living. When to their natural disabilities are added the ravages of bandits and the evils of misgovernment, such as prevail in many parts of China, the lot of poverty and starvation must be the lot of people who in the best of times are only half fed.—East and West News.

"Hookets and Blue Lights"

Charles M. Schwab, the steel magnate, owns the famous painting "Hookets and Blue Lights," by Turner, the master English colorist, for which he is said to have paid a quarter of a million dollars.

The painting represents a stormy sea with a boat on the end of a pier, while beyond at the left the harbor is fairly discernible. In the foreground a group of fishermen appear looking intently out upon the sea.

Monkeys Are Fighters

"Most persons will guess that monkeys are the most dangerous animals to train," said an animal trainer, "but they're wrong. Give a lion one good licking and he'll remember it. He won't back down when his man is down or has his back turned, but a monkey will fight against any odds, and you never can tell when he'll hit back. Even a medium sized monkey can strike a blow that will reach through a coat, vest and two shirts, and he leaves a nasty wound. The most daring thing I ever did was to go into a monkey cage and take a baby from its mother. The ordinary house cat is the most stubborn animal under training, but the monkey is the most dangerous if you work the larger kind."—New York Sun.

True to His Promise

"Dearest, will you let me share your every sorrow after we are married?" she whispered as she cuddled her cheek against his.

"Yes, darling," he replied, again plucking a delicious kiss from her sweet lips.

Closely Concocted

"Your friend Dubowitz seems to know a great deal about army affairs." "Oh, yes. Mr. Dubowitz has a cousin who is a first sergeant in the regular army. Naturally, that being the case, he is in close touch with the war department."—Birmingham Mail-Herald.

Bright Idea

Motorist (after smash)—"Wind shield broken, and guard bent, bumper smashed!" Wife—"But you've lost the three best that you were to have had covered. That saving will cover all the damage."—Chicago News.

Bill Wore

Penelope—It's dreadful! Papa wants me to marry a man I have never seen. Perdita—That's nothing. My father wants me to marry a man I have never seen.