

# UNION FOOTLIGHTS.

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## POETRY.

### OUR SEPTEMBER SONG.

Rich the gifts September brings us,  
Flowers and fruit and ripened sheaves,  
Ere the early frosts come panting,  
Gold and crimson on all the leaves.  
Cardinal flowers in meadow flaming,  
Asters white and purple tinged,  
Golden-rod along the roadside,  
Gentian, closed or fairy fringed.

See the branches heavy laden!  
Downy peach and juicy pear,  
Grapes that hang in purple clusters,  
Red cheeked apples everywhere.  
Golden pumpkins in the cornfields  
Lie among the yellow sheaves,  
Light and shade the fleecy cloudlet  
With the amber sunshine weaves.

EVA J. BEEDE.

### The Ailanthus Tree.

Though it bears the common names of "Chinese Sumach" and "Tree of Heaven," *Ailanthus glandulosa* is seldom called by any other name than "Ailanthus." For many years we have presented the excellent qualities of this tree, and its real value to tree planters in city or country, and in this we have not only been unaided, but have been exposed to ridicule by those who have allowed its one bad quality to offset many real excellences and economical value. It was, therefore with no little pleasure that we received from one distinguished in practical as well as scientific forestry, a small book-rack made from the wood of the tree, in acknowledgment of our advocacy of the Ailanthus. Many more costly gifts have brought to their recipient less real pleasure than this. When aid came at last, and from so able a coadjutor as the editor of the "London Gardener's Chronicle," we welcomed it with no little pride; and when the much reviled Ailanthus was mentioned as "this noble tree which is not so well known as it ought to be," we felt rewarded for years of neglect. The "Chronicle" says: "As a town tree it has few rivals; it grows freely and gives full shade." It has for some reason been especially fruitful in England the past season, and the trees have been loaded with their purplish-brown clusters of fruit of seed vessels. The tree is *dioecious*, bearing male and female flowers on different trees. When in flower the male blossoms give off an undeniably unpleasant odor. This is its only drawback. Everything else is in its favor. As a street tree it will flourish in the poorest soil. It grows rapidly, gives abundant shade, is remarkably clean and free from insects.

Where fuel is scarce its rapid growth soon produces useful wood. It is readily propagated from seeds, by root cuttings, and from suckers. As a rapidly growing timber tree it has its value, and excellent furniture has been made from its wood. It is one of those trees that the settler upon the Western, treeless prairies may find very useful to provide him with fuel and lumber until better material can be grown. If the Western settler sows Ailanthus seeds next spring, his sons and grandsons will give him thanks for his provident forethought.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

From the report of the Presbyterian Conference, held at \_\_\_\_\_, as reported in the "Church Review" we clip the following:—

Rev. Mr. Hardy gave a paper on the "Mormon Gods." He outlined the Mormon doctrine of a plurality of gods, their conception of Christ and the eternal father, the Holy Spirit as the purest and most subtle physical element in the universe. He treated the subject of celestial marriage. The God-Adam theory, baptism for the dead, the possibility of those having the celestial marriage relation becoming God's after death. The paper closed with a discourse on the true God as revealed in the Bible.

### The Sun Flower.

Says a New York paper:—

Everybody knows the common sun flower, which abounds in most of the back yards and enclosed grounds of the small towns and villages, and, indeed, throughout the rustic regions of the whole Republic. The sun flower is self-sowing, we believe, and grows spontaneously in every part of the country. It is so common here that nobody cares for it; yet it is not without a large, gorgeous kind of beauty, which would be appreciated were the plant scarce, or were any pains taken to rear it. Elsewhere the sun flower, if not admired, is esteemed for practical reasons. Many of our native aboriginals make bread out of the seeds. It is cultivated in the south of Europe, sometimes as a field crop, the seeds being used as a food for cattle and poultry, and also for making oil, which is little inferior to olive oil, is burned in lamps, and employed in the manufacture of soap. Meal and bread are said to be got from the seeds in Portugal, and these, roasted, are often substituted for coffee. The seeds are also used like almonds for making soothing emulsions, and in some parts of the Old World are boiled and fed to infants. The leaves are good fodder for cattle, the stems

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Booth's freight teams start for Milford on Tuesday, September 10, 1895.