

**FLORA OF MARLBOROUGH;  
WITH NOTICES OF THE BIRDS;  
AND A SKETCH ON THE  
GEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

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Flora of Marlborough; With Notices of the Birds; And a Sketch on the Geological Features of the Neighbourhood by T. A. Preston

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**T. A. PRESTON**

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## P R E F A C E.

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It is with considerable hesitation that I venture to print the following List of Plants found in the neighbourhood of Marlborough. To obtain even a fairly correct list, a much longer time than I have been able to devote to the subject, and much assistance from the careful observation of others are needed. I have, however, been induced to print the results of my own observations during the past five years, not from a belief that they will be of any great service elsewhere, but with a hope that, by placing before the members of this College a proof of the Botanical riches of our neighbourhood, I may induce some of them to take an interest in the study of Botany, and perhaps, indirectly through this, of some other branch of Natural History. I am at the same time anxious to make this List as perfect as possible, and trust that, by publishing it at once, I may be enabled the sooner to obtain assistance from those who have paid any attention to the subject. I beg, therefore, to impress upon any one who may take the trouble to examine this List,

that it was undertaken mainly for the purpose of assisting those members of the College who may be fond of Botany, and that any value which it may have beyond this is only what any ordinary list of the kind would possess.

The list of localities will, I fear, be found somewhat defective; but I have preferred leaving the book thus imperfect, to giving any statements which I could not fully confirm. It is quite possible, and in many instances probable, that plants which are mentioned as occurring in only one or two places may prove to be very generally distributed: on this account I have not given, as I had originally intended, a Table showing the distribution of the plants in each district. Much, undoubtedly, still remains to be done; but I hope that this first approximation to a complete List of the Flora of our neighbourhood may not be without its use to those who seek information on the subject.

The limit I have chosen is a circle with a radius of six miles from Marlborough, the ground within which I have divided into four Districts. So large a portion of the locality lies on the Chalk, that I have found it impracticable to divide it into districts with reference to its geological characteristics. There are, however, well-marked features about the Valley of the Kennet and Savernake Forest; and as definite boundary-lines are advisable, I have taken four roads diverging from Marlborough, as being the most convenient for my purpose. These are—the Bath Road, bounding the water-meadows by the Kennet; the Salisbury Road,

just on the edge of Savernake Forest; the Hungerford Road, similarly situated on the other side of the Forest; and the New Swindon Road, bounding, sufficiently for the purpose, the Down Country in that direction.

District I., between the Bath and Salisbury Roads, contains more especially a part of the water-meadows beside the Kennet, the West Woods, and Martinsell Hill. This latter is properly Down Country; but there are numerous copses and woods around it, which considerably alter its botanical features. The village of Pewsey is also included in this district, and consequently a portion of the Kennet and Avon Canal. Here the greensand crops out, and a variation of the Flora may therefore be expected.

District II., between the Salisbury and Hungerford Roads, includes Savernake Forest and Bedwin. The Forest is situated principally on the clay and gravel: there are a few small ponds in one or two spots; but as they are nearly dry in summer, a few Ranunculi and other hardy aquatic plants are alone found in them. Great Bedwin appears to be peculiarly rich in flowers; but, from its distance, I have not been able to examine it so much as I could wish, and have been obliged to trust mainly to the observations of others.

District III., between the Hungerford and New Swindon Roads, includes Folly Farm (really a small portion of Savernake Forest), the remaining portion of the water-meadows

beside the Kennet, Ramsbury, Mildenhall, Rabley Copse, and the River Og. A small portion of the Down Country is included in this district.

District IV., between the New Swindon and Bath Roads, is peculiarly a Down Country, and, like District III., is situated principally on the chalk and gravel.

As a rule, therefore, all water plants must be looked for in I. and III., wood plants in II., and Down plants in IV. The Map which accompanies this book is taken, by permission, from the Ordnance Survey, and has been photographed by Messrs. Hills and Saunders of Oxford.

The arrangement I have followed is that of Babington, in the fourth edition of his 'Manual.' I had introduced into the College, at the suggestion of the late Professor Henslow, Bentham's Handbook; but though that work is extremely useful for those beginning the study of Botany, and has many excellent points about it, yet the wholesale manner in which Bentham has united what have generally been regarded as distinct species, and at the same time occasionally described them, imperfectly, under the head of varieties, have induced me to adopt Babington's Manual. I have, nevertheless, given references to Bentham's book, as well as to that of Hooker and Arnott, ed. 7, 1855, and, by so doing, I trust that any inconvenience resulting from the adoption of a new Text-book will be avoided.



The English names and accentuation have been taken, as far as possible, from Babington's *Flora of Cambridge-shire*. Since this book went to press, I learnt that a fifth edition of the 'Manual' had been published, and I have therefore introduced any corrections which have been observed. As it was considered advisable to give, as far as possible, an English name to every species, I have supplied the deficiency from Hooker and Arnott's *Flora*, or from Sowerby's *British Wild Flowers*.

I cannot conclude without returning my thanks to those who have kindly assisted me. To C. C. Babington, Esq., Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge, my thanks are especially due, not only for his permission to model my present 'Flora' on the one he published of Cambridge-shire, but also for his kind assistance and advice from the time I first thought of printing my List, and for the trouble he has taken in naming all specimens sent him for the purpose. To the Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, Rector of Pewsey, I am indebted for a list of the plants found in that neighbourhood; and to T. B. Flower, Esq., author of the 'Flora of Wiltshire,' now publishing in the 'Wilts Archæological Magazine,' for a list of the Rubi observed by him about Marlborough. I have also taken advantage of the 'Flora of Wilts,' referred to above, as far as it has appeared in print, and can only regret that so small a portion has yet been published, as many plants are mentioned in it which I have not yet been able to detect here. Among former or present Members of the College, I am especially

indebted to J. J. Pulleine, now of Trinity College, Cambridge, and J. W. Mills, whose initials will be found on almost every page of the 'Flora.' Any further assistance which I have received I trust I have acknowledged in the proper place. The initials given are those of the person who first brought me a specimen from the locality mentioned. In most cases I alone am responsible for the name; and, as far as possible, I have myself examined the locality.

The portion devoted to the Birds of Marlborough has been kindly furnished by R. B. SMITH, Esq., of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, late Senior Prefect of the College. Its completeness is not such as he himself could wish, as he was only three years at the College, and had no acquaintance with gamekeepers, who would naturally have been the persons to have supplied him with notices of rare birds; but it nevertheless gives a very good idea of our Ornithological Fauna.

The pages devoted to the description of the Geological features of our neighbourhood have been kindly contributed by W. G. ADAMS, Esq., who, notwithstanding the many calls upon his time, at once gladly consented to aid in a work which he hoped would be of service to the College.

T. A. PRESTON.

Marlborough College,  
April 1863.

## GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

OF

## MARLBOROUGH.

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In the study of the surface or crust of the earth, there is abundant evidence to prove that it has always been subject to the same denuding and restoring agencies as those which are at present at work on it.

These agencies are of two kinds, internal and external. The internal or igneous agencies, such as earthquakes and volcanoes, elevate or depress the earth's crust, either at intervals or by slow degrees, and throw out matter from its interior; while the external or aqueous agencies, such as rain, rivers, currents, icebergs, &c., are incessantly stripping off the soil from one part of the earth's surface and depositing it in another.

In considering the geology of the neighbourhood of Marlborough we are only indirectly concerned with the internal agencies, as the surface for many miles round, and to a great depth, has been entirely formed by external agencies. Before entering into detail, it will be well to consider the different forms of external agency. Every stream or river is constantly rolling and carrying along with it portions of the clay or sand forming its bed, flowing faster and carrying away more soil as its course is steeper, or as other streams unite with it. The loose material swept down by rivers, which is much increased by heavy rains and floods,