

**A CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FLORA OF
AUSTRALIA**

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A Contribution to the Flora of Australia by William Woolls

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WILLIAM WOOLLS

**A CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FLORA OF
AUSTRALIA**

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TO

THE FLORA OF AUSTRALIA,

BY

WILLIAM WOOLLS, FLS.,

AUTHOR OF "MISCELLANIES IN PROSE AND VERSE," "A SHORT ACCOUNT OF
THE CHARACTER AND LABOURS OF THE REV. SAMUEL MARSDEN,"
ETC., ETC.

"Consider the Lilies of the Field, how they grow."

SYDNEY: F. WHITE, WILLIAM STREET;
PARRAMATTA: J. FERGUSON, CHURCH STREET;
MELBOURNE: G. ROBERTSON, 69, ELIZABETH STREET.

1867.

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To

FERDINAND MUELLER, PH.D., M.D., F.R.S., &c., &c., &c.

GOVERNMENT BOTANIST FOR THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

MY DEAR SIR,

In presenting to the public my humble contribution to the Flora of Australia, I feel deeply indebted to your kind consideration for permitting me to dedicate the volume to you; and more especially do I appreciate the association of your name with my occasional papers, inasmuch as most of them have been perused by you, and received your favourable notice. But independently of the friendly sentiments you have manifested towards me, and the invaluable assistance I have received from your correspondence for the last eleven years, there are other considerations which induce me to bring your name prominently forward on the present occasion.

Since the days of the illustrious ROBERT BROWN, no botanist has devoted himself more assiduously to the elucidation of Australian Botany than yourself, and certainly none has more richly merited the title "PRINCE OF AUSTRALIAN BOTANISTS," bestowed upon you by the eminent author of *Species Fflorum*.

When I contemplate the extensive information, profound research, and philosophical discrimination, displayed in the voluminous works published by you, by which you have gained an imperishable reputation, and contributed materially to the advancement of science throughout the civilized world, I may well feel honoured by the friendship of such a man as yourself, and pray that you may long continue to adorn these colonies.

Should it please Divine Providence to spare a life devoted to the calm and unobtrusive pursuits of science and the development of the vegetable productions of this vast continent, you will render incalculable service, not merely to Victoria, but to the whole of the Australian colonies, and future generations will contemplate with wonder the indefatigable labour and untiring zeal of one so highly favoured. If, however, like a distinguished historian who was struck down in the midst of his literary labours, your sun should set, ere the great works designed by you shall have been fully accomplished, it may truly be said of you as it was of a renowned general of antiquity: "*Et ipse quidem quamquam medio in spatio integræ ætatis ereptus, quantum ad gloriam, longissimum ævum peregit.*"

I am, my dear Sir,

Your faithful and obliged friend,

WILLIAM WOOLLS,

Parramatta,

December 1867.

P R E F A C E .

THE present volume is composed of papers on occasional subjects, connected with the Botany of Australia, and designed to lay before the public in a popular form some particulars respecting the Vegetable Kingdom of that vast continent. The information thus conveyed is partly the result of personal observation in the colony of New South Wales, and partly a careful review and selection of such facts as have appeared from time to time in works not always accessible to the general reader. For my article on Ferns, I am deeply indebted to the five volumes of the late Sir William Hooker's "*Species Filicum*," and to the fifth volume of Dr. F. Mueller's "*Fragmenta Phytographiæ Australiæ*." Whilst endeavouring to place on record any matters of interest relative to Australian Ferns, which I have noticed in my rambles, I have enumerated all the species mentioned by those eminent writers, and arranged the various genera according to the system indicated in the *Species Filicum*. Being aware that Sir William's great work has had a very limited circulation in the colony, and that Dr. F. Mueller's review of Australian Ferns was composed in Latin and intended for the learned in all parts of the world, I was impressed with the idea that a popular article on our ferns might be acceptable to many persons in these colonies. My impressions were not without foundation, for after my papers on the subject had appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, I was requested to publish them over again with sundry alterations and additions in the *Horticultural Magazine*. To these papers, I have now added a systematic list of our Australian Ferns, which I trust will assist collectors in arranging their specimens according to an approved method of classification, and will induce many pteridophylits in different parts of Australia to add to the number of

species already known and described. In the paper on Orchids, I have given the result of my own observations in the neighbourhood of Parramatta, as well as the more elaborate review of the order by Dr. F. Mueller, who by his own exertions in the field, and by his descriptions of specimens forwarded to him from different parts of Australia, has added many species to those previously described by the illustrious author of the *Prodromus Floræ Novæ-Hollandiæ*. As I have been incessantly occupied for many years past in arduous duties limited to the district of Parramatta, I have enjoyed but few opportunities of proceeding far into the interior, and, therefore, most of my papers are confined to the illustration of the Flora existing in the neighbourhood of the town in which I have been engaged. With the exception of my personal observations on the Blue Mountains, Mittagong, and Ash Island, of which I have given a brief outline, my attention has been directed principally to the Flora of the Parramatta District, and on different occasions, I have published more than thirty letters on that subject. It was my first intention, when I was requested by Dr. F. Mueller, and other friends, to collect my papers and publish them in a connected form, to take a careful review of all those letters, and add to them such species of plants as had previously escaped my notice; but upon reflection, I found that such a work would not merely occupy more time than I could spare for the purpose, but that it would lead to the publication of a larger volume than I considered advisable. Moved by such considerations, therefore, I have selected a paper, which was read before a society in Sydney, giving an outline of the vegetable productions indigenous in the district, and to that I have added special papers on "the Woods," "the Medicinal Plants," and "Ornamental Shrubs" of the neighbourhood. My paper on "Introduced Plants," of which we may now number more than a hundred species that have appeared accidentally amongst us, opens for consideration topics of an interesting and practical nature, for whilst it leads to speculations as to the probable causes of such importations, it also serves to indicate from the character of the plants thus introduced, the adaptation of similar species to the soil and climate of the colony. With respect to those papers founded upon the consideration of specimens forwarded to me from the interior, I have availed myself of