

**INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF
BOTANY; INCLUDING CHARACTERISTIC
DETAILS OF THE PHYSIOLOGY, USES,
AND CLASSIFICATION, OF THE
VEGETABLE KINGDOM**

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Introduction to the Science of Botany; Including Characteristic Details of the Physiology, Uses, and Classification, of the Vegetable Kingdom by Charles F. Partington

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CHARLES F. PARTINGTON

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INTRODUCTION.

THE rapidly increasing desire now exhibited for obtaining useful information illustrative of the vegetable kingdom, forms a distinct era in the progress of the natural sciences. Popular botany scarcely existed prior to the commencement of the present century, and yet we now find a variety of treatises on the subject, which deservedly place their authors high in the ranks of literary eminence. While, however, books have multiplied for the use of individual students, there is not one properly illustrated work which will assist the teacher in the boudoir or lecture room in the important task of

imparting elementary knowledge to others. And, surely, the spread of truths which place the unsearchable wisdom and goodness of our Creator in the strongest point of view, must be an object to be desired by all those who would direct the young and ingenious mind to the paths of future excellence. Those indeed who, at any period of their life, would commune with their Maker, cannot do so with more advantage to themselves than in the theatre of his works.

But nature, though ever wonderful and abounding in illustrations of that holy word which in the olden time taught mankind to go to the "lilies of the field" for a practical illustration of the goodness and unceasing care of the Creator—Nature, though thus interesting, is not ever blooming; and as the faculties of sentient beings do not re-

main dormant even during the chilling blasts of winter, like those of hybernating animals, it has become necessary for those who would read the kingdom of nature to do so through the medium of the graphic art. Now, to do this with advantage, the Author has appended to the present work some of the most interesting illustrations in a form as nearly allied to their natural character as possible.

One great advantage which results from this mode of imparting knowledge, will be found in the permanence as well as beauty of these embellishments, which, whilst they serve to adorn the temple of instruction, really form a "golden road" to the acquirement of botanical science. The flower-garden is always a valuable adjunct, but yet, as we have already stated, it must be obvious that the necessary flowers can

neither be procured at all seasons, nor yet in any season in some localities; and even when obtained how fragile and evanescent are their beauties.

“ The flowers which grace their native beds,
Awhile put forth their blushing heads ;
But, ere the close of parting day,
They wither, shrink, and die away ;
But these, which mimic skill hath made,
Nor scorched by suns, nor killed by shade,
Shall blush with less inconstant hue.
Which art at pleasure can renew.”

Those, however, who can go to nature will do well to avail themselves of her richly garnished storehouse, as she produces in abundance those plants which are best fitted for the illustration of her mysteries; and in that case the present little volume may form a useful assistant to the botanical student, as one feature peculiar to these Lectures is, that every effort has been

made to strip botanical science of its technicalities, and of those abstruse terms which serve rather to astonish and confound than to induct the inquirer into the temple of science. But there is another feature which though not so prominent to the eye, has never been lost sight of. In studying the works of *Nature*, we have never lost sight of its great *Parent*, and have shewn, by direct reference to the Vegetable Kingdom, that there is nothing too minute to exhibit the infinite Wisdom and Goodness of the Creator. In this respect there is not

“ ————— A tree,

A plant, a leaf, a blossom, but contains
A folio volume. We may read, and read,
And read again, and still find something new,
Something to please, and something to instruct.”

[The characteristic coloured Embellishments published to illustrate this work, and which are especially adapted for teaching the science of Botany, are described at page 137, and may be procured separate from the Volume, at the Publishers'.]

COMPLETE INTRODUCTION
TO
THE SCIENCE OF BOTANY.

LECTURE I.

RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE SCIENCE OF BOTANY.

A SCIENTIFIC acquaintance with the vegetable kingdom now forms an essential portion of human knowledge; and systematic botany, which, even in the last century, was little more than a dry detail of abstruse terms, without either instruction for the student, or interest to the general admirer of this beautiful portion of natural history, has now become a most delightful subject of scientific research. In the present day we do not, as in the olden time, merely catalogue the names of the plants that surround us, but the botanist becomes acquainted with their attributes and properties; neither is the study of the vegetable