

THE BOOK OF THE DAFFODIL

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649469529

The Book of the Daffodil by S. Eugene Bourne

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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S. EUGENE BOURNE

**THE BOOK OF
THE DAFFODIL**

HANDBOOKS OF PRACTICAL GARDENING—XVI
EDITED BY HARRY ROBERTS

THE BOOK OF THE DAFFODIL



MAGNI-CORONATI
(*A. Johnstoni* form)
NARCISSUS "CECIL RHODES"

THE BOOK OF THE DAFFODIL

BY THE

REV. S. EUGENE BOURNE, B.A.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN; VICAR OF DUNSTON BY
LINCOLN; FELLOW, AND MEMBER OF THE NARCISUS
COMMITTEE, OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"He that has two cakes of bread, let him sell one
of them for some flowers of the Narcissus, for bread
is food for the body, but Narcissus is food of the soul."

MORAMMED.

JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD
LONDON AND NEW YORK. MCMIII

Turnbull & Spears, Printers, Edinburgh

A DEDICATION

To Him who formed the flower my heart I raise,
Whose Name is "Wonderful," His tribute praise,—
To Him Who subjected His work to man,
Enabling one, whose life is but a span,
To bring such possibilities to light,
Such new sweet beauties to the ravished sight,—
Who first a flower and then a man could make,
Then give man skill of simple flowers to take
And with laborious pains and patient care
Call forth a multitude of forms so fair:—
They lift my thoughts from earth to heaven above,
I own His Wisdom and I trust His Love.

S. EUGENE BOURNE.

57634
Oct 1904
The Kansas Beacon

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TO MISTRESS DAFFODIL

Will they laugh at your old-fashioned gown,
Daffodil?
At your simple and quaint little gown,
As you enter the streets of the town;
Pass you by with a sneer and a frown,
Daffodil?

Nay tell them old fashions are best,
Daffodil.
Old friends are the dearest and best,
And the flower we would wear at our breast
Is the one longer loved than the rest,
Daffodil.

MARGARET JOHNSON (*see Preface*).

PREFACE

THIS little book is intended to supply a want, such as I felt keenly myself some fifteen years ago when beginning to grow Daffodils in "deadly earnest." Had some such guide been then at hand, I should have been saved considerable expenditure of time, money, and mis-directed energy.

There is here set down the result of my own personal experience gained in cultivating a large and representative collection of over 200 varieties during many years, also in exhibiting, and of late years judging Daffodils; with the addition of sundry useful facts and opinions, which I have noted from time to time from various sources. The book has grown out of a Paper on the "Cultivation of the Narcissus in Gardens" read before the Royal Horticultural Society in the year 1900 (*Journal of R.H.S.* Vol. xxv. p. 39). Most of the advice then given is now repeated and brought up to date, but only forms a small part of the whole; it has been largely supplemented by other matters of Daffodil lore, and it is hoped that the information now gathered together in a handy volume may help the lover of Daffodils, not only to grow good flowers, but also to maintain his collection at a high standard, and generally to hold his own with other Daffodil people.

I beg to acknowledge thankfully the assistance I have received from—

Mr J. G. Baker's "Amaryllideæ."

Mr F. W. Burbidge's "The Narcissus."

Mr Barr's little book "Ye Narcissus."