

**A SEASON AMONG
THE WILD FLOWERS**

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A season among the wild flowers by Henry Wood

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HENRY WOOD

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THE WILD FLOWERS**



TO THE READER.

THESE Papers were the medium of weekly communication, during a Spring and Summer, between the writer and a number of persons of whom many are personally known to him; hence they have acquired a conversational style. They aim at giving simple but accurate information respecting the principal Natural Orders and Genera of our British Flora, with occasional references, chiefly in the earlier papers, to the place of the plants in the Linnaean System. A few notices of familiar or remarkable foreign and garden plants are added under the respective Orders.

The method adopted has been to describe plants which were in bloom at the time, and to notice, with these, other species and genera of the same Natural Order. The work is

founded upon many years of observation, during which a collection of numerous specimens for reference was formed. Professor Babington's Manual has been mainly followed in the nomenclature and classification; but several other Authors have been constantly referred to, including Mr. Leo. H. Grindon, whose interesting book on British and Garden Botany has afforded some valuable notes for the present work. The Papers have been the Author's recreation amidst grave responsible duties, but they have been written with care; and whilst they profess nothing new beyond the method adopted, it is hoped that they may prove useful in the earlier study of Botany, and interesting to those who are more advanced.

H. W.



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WHERE GROW THE FLOWERS?

WHERE proud mansion rears its head,
Where the rich domain is spread ;
'Mid trees that only nobles own,
Since long ancestral ages grown ;
Planted by a skillful hand,
Rare, and gay, and fragrant band,
Beauties which strange lands well know,—
There the gorgeous flowers grow !

By the humble peasant's door,
Precious portion of his store ;
Fragrant and luxuriant all,
Climbing, clustering o'er the wall,
Fringing round the oval border,
Full of beauty, lacking order ;
'Mid simplicity they smile,
Thought of poverty beguile,
And with sweetest freshness blow,—
There the simple flowers grow !

Scattered o'er the mountain side,
Scarce beyond the roaring tide,
Like a firmament revealed
Of daisies which the night concealed,
Roving, twining, where they list,
Circles none can e'er untwist,

Like the love-knots of the heart,
Which not death itself can part ;
In the woods, and in the vales,
Lending odour to the gales ;
Heaven's love on earth to show,—
Everywhere the flowers grow !

Where true love in sorrow weeps,
Sad and lonely vigil keeps,
Or, reviving now to joy,
Tastes a spring without alloy ;
To express a tender thought,
Love within the breast hath wrought ;
Silent utterance to find
For the full and bursting mind ;
Stillness of the soul to break,
As soft breezes music wake ;
To convey the grasp in fancy,
Taught by love this necromancy ;
E'en the senses to salute,
Scent and colour rich, though mute,—
Wheresoever Love doth go,
There it bids the flowers grow !

H. W.





AMONG THE WILD FLOWERS.

I.

GENTLE reader, when you are wandering in our pretty English lanes, and through woods, and over heath, do you sometimes wish you knew a little more of the names and peculiarities and associations of the gifts which Flora has strewn there? If so, I invite you to come with me in thought, whilst I tell you, from week to week, some few things about them which many years of pleased attention to them have enabled me to know. Pity it is that the simple beauties of our fields and waysides are necessarily encumbered with scientific names; and as far as possible I will in these papers supply an English description of a number of our principal plants.

During mild winters our banks are never without flowers; but I will mention in order