FLORA ODORATA; A CHARACTERISTIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE SWEET-SCENTED FLOWERS AND SHRUBS, CULTIVATED IN THE GARDENS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Flora Odorata; A Characteristic Arrangement of the Sweet-Scented Flowers and Shrubs, Cultivated in the Gardens of Great Britain by Frederick T. Mott

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FREDERICK T. MOTT

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BY FREDERICK T. MOTT.

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1843.

O Father, Lord!

The all-beneficent :—I bless thy name,
That thou hast mantled the green earth with flowers,
Linking our hearts to nature! By the love
Of their wild blossoms, our young footsteps first
Into her deep recesses are beguil'd,
Her minster cells; dark glen and forest bower,
Where, thrilling with its earliest sense of thee,
Amidst the low religious whisperings
And shivery leaf-sounds of the solitude,
The spirit wakes to worship, and is made
Thy living temple. By the breath of flowers,
Thou callest us, from city throngs and cares,
Back to the woods, the birds, the mountain streams,
That sing of Thee! back to free childhood's heart,
Fresh with the dews of tenderness.

MRS. HEMANS.

INTRODUCTION.

The want of a collection of the SWEET-SCENTED flowers, as distinguished from those whose value depends merely on their outward beauty, has long been felt by the lovers of horticulture; and the present work is designed to supply that want, in such a form as, it is believed, will prove most agreeable to British amateurs; and in which the proper treatment of each species may be most easily discovered, by those who have neither inclination nor sufficient scientific knowledge, to search the more ponderous volumes of the best modern authors.

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We have been engaged for a considerable time in forming this selection, but are nevertheless fully aware that it is as yet somewhat imperfect, several sweet-scented flowers being, no doubt, omitted. These however we hope to be able in a short time to add to the list.

It is also very probable, considering the innumerable varieties of taste and opinion prevailing in the world, that the scent of many which are here included, will be occasionally regarded as anything but agreeable, or as no scent at all. We must therefore be allowed some latitude in our choice, which we think will be found upon the whole, tolerably correct.

It will be seen that such as we have been able to collect, are arranged alphabetically under various heads, according to their habit and manner of growth; and as we have confined ourselves in the present work, to such plants as may be cultivated in this country without the aid of a greenhouse, they are divided into the two classes of Hardy and Halfhardy. The numerous varieties of the rose, the Queen of

Flowers, we considered deserving of a separate head, and have accordingly placed them by themselves, selecting out of the many hundreds of known varieties, about fifty of the choicest and most beautiful.

In addition to the catalogue of sweet-scented flowers will be found, a few general remarks upon the flower-garden, and some of the principal operations connected with it; a very select list of border plants; directions for the management of plants in rooms; and a short outline of the external and internal structure of the vegetable system.

In the whole work we have especially aimed at conciseness; and in the directions for the flower-garden, we have endeavoured to give only such ideas, as appear to be either somewhat new, or not generally noticed, omitting the greater part of those details which are now so universally known, and which would be foreign to our main object.

It may perhaps be expected that something should be said upon the nature of floral scent; but as at present very little is known positively concerning this curious subject, we can only advise our readers to study it for themselves, in doing which we think a collection like the present will be found a valuable assistance; and the result of any observations or experiments, which may tend to elucidate the real cause and nature of odours, will be gladly received by the scientific world.

We have only now to acknowledge how much we are indebted for information and authority, to the justly celebrated works of Lindley, Sweet, Loudon, Rennie, Macnab, &c.; and hoping that at least the novelty of the subject will render our little volume interesting to all true lovers of flowers, we send it forth into the world as an offering of sweet incease upon the glorious altar of Nature.

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