WILD FLOWERS FROM THE
MOUNTAINS, CAÑONS AND
VALLEYS *of* CALIFORNIA .

EMMA GRAHAM CLOCK

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BLAZING STAR
Reduced one-third

Mentzelia laevicaulis—Loasa or Blazing-Star Family

WILD FLOWERS FROM THE
MOUNTAINS, CAÑONS AND
VALLEYS *of* CALIFORNIA 1

A Selection of Favorite Blossoms,
with Reproductions from Water-
colors *by* Emma Graham Clock

SAN FRANCISCO
H. S. CROCKER COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

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San Francisco

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by the author to those writers and publishers from
whom short quotations have been taken
to illustrate her favorite
California flowers

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TO MY PARENTS
JOSEPH GRAHAM
PHEBE MADISON GRAHAM
•

*“And he gathers the prayers as he stands,
And they change into flowers in his hands,
Into garlands of purple and red.”*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Introduction

From hundreds of wild flowers of California those which are the gayest and most familiar and also representative of the whole State have been selected for this gift book.

It is the wish of the author that those who have never seen these flowers may now make their acquaintance, and that those who know them may be pleasantly reminded of them and their associations.

Many bulbs and plants of California wild flowers are eagerly bought and cultivated in Europe and our Eastern States, while they are almost neglected here.

May you now have a place in your gardens, as well as in your hearts, for our wild flowers!

Emma Graham Clock

Blazing Star

Late in summer in the dry beds of brooks, this magnificent blossom is found dazzlingly radiant and filling the air with its delightful perfume. Someone has said the long stamens are like lashes of light that trim the stars. The leaves of these plants have sharp hairs so that they are “sticky,” as the children say, and do not seem very friendly. I have often wondered why this plant is not cultivated, at least in our parks.

(See Frontispiece)

There are star-flowers, Dear, in the human world—
Children with angel wings half furled,
Who find like you that the sun shines strong,
Who at times like you for the soft rain long.

Edward Howard Griggs

Scarlet and Blue Larkspur

California has many beautiful larkspurs growing on plain and mountain-side in colors of red, white or blue. The sketch on the page opposite is of blossoms found in a cañon of Napa County where they were growing in masses—a bed of red or one of royal blue. In the southern part of California, the red larkspur grows to a height of fully ten feet. The Spanish call these flowers *espuela del caballero*, “the cavalier’s spur.”

Rather this wayside flower,
To live its happy hour
Of balmy air, of sunshine, and of dew.
A sinless face held upward to the blue;
A bird-song sung to it,
A butterfly to flit
On dazzling wings above it, hither, thither—
A sweet surprise of life—and then exhale
A little fragrant soul on the soft gale,
To float—ah! whither?

Ina D. Coolbrith

SCARLET LARKSPUR
Reduced one-fourth

BLUE LARKSPUR
Reduced one-fourth

Delphinium nudicaule—Crowfoot Family

Delphinium—Crowfoot Family—"Cavalier's Spur"

Baby-Blue-Eyes

When eastern snows of February are falling,
the baby-blue-eyes have already budded and
are coming into blossom in California. Be-
fore the vineyards have been plowed this
flower has crept in and opened its blue eyes—
to the great delight of young and old. It is
found also in uncultivated places, seeking
soft ground, where it spreads rapidly and
bears many beautifully blue blossoms.

Oh, not in Ladie's gardens
My peasant posy!
Smile thy dear blue eyes.
Not only—nearer to the skies—
In upland pastures dim and sweet—
But by the dusty road
Where tired feet
Toil to and fro.

Dana's Botany

BABY-BLUE-EYES
Slightly reduced

Nemophila insignis—Waterleaf Family

Mariposa Tulip

This is another favorite flower and is found on valley and on hillside. One driving to Yosemite will often see a sunny mountain slope adorned with these exquisite flowers, white, lilac, yellow, or magenta. They are Nature's chalice of nectar, for the bees, flies, and other insects are always hovering over them. The petals of some mariposas when in full bloom resemble wings and have been named butterfly lilies.

O dainty nursling of the field and sky!
What fairer thing looks up to heaven's blue,
And drinks the noontide sun, the dawning's dew?
Thou winged bloom! thou blossom butterfly!

MARIPOSA TULIP
Reduced one-third

Calochortus venustus—Lily Family

Matilija Poppy

Matilija—queen of all California flowers, with fragrant blossoms five to nine inches across and petals which resemble silken crêpe. The buds are as beautiful as the blossom, which remains open for many days. They are large spreading plants and are grown from root cuttings, as the seeds do not germinate until the second year. It is found in the cañons near Santa Barbara and in some other parts of the state. The Indians esteem this plant for its medicinal qualities.

Grandly thou rear'st thy snowy chalice high
And in its cup a sphere of sunshine lies,
As if the warmth distilled from summer skies
Were caught to win the vagrant butterfly.

Anon.

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MATILJA POPPY
Reduced one-half

Romneya Coulteri—Poppy Family

California Azalea

One of the showiest of mountain flowers.
It grows on a shrub four or five feet high.
Its heavy perfume is carried far by the winds
and the sportsman often looks up and smiles
at "the creamy blur of white that the rhododendrons make." The roots and leaves are said to be poisonous, but one may handle them without harm. Yet I would warn you not to partake of honey made from these flowers, as the mountain people say it causes sickness if not death.

The sound of running water
Is in our ear alway—
A dream-song with us through the night,
A dream-song through the day.

Down cañons where the lilies
Shake out a rich perfume,
Past hillsides where azaleas
Show white against the gloom.

Alberta Bancroft

CALIFORNIA AZALEA
Slightly reduced

Rhododendron occidentale—Heath Family

Squaw Grass

High up on the mountains, where moisture has collected from the fogs of summer, clumps of plants resembling pampas grass may be seen. It grows for several years without a blossom. Then, some spring, appear these feathery, creamy-white flowers. The squaws make some of their best baskets from the long narrow leaves.

The Scarlet Paint Brush is a mountain flower, and rivals in color the scarlet geraniums of the garden.

And there comes a low, delicious sound of bells
For the lilies all a-cluster
In the mossy woodland aisles,
All their lovely chimes are sounding
 For their sisters of the spring,
Who have come through March's bluster,
And through April's frowns and smiles,
And their odors, all abounding
 With them bring.

Mrs. L. R. Osborne

SQUAW GRASS
SCARLET PAINT BRUSH
Reduced one-half

Xerophyllum tenax—Lily Family
Castilleja latifolia—Figwort Family

Columbine

How one exclaims on finding a columbine bending over a stream or dancing in the woods! They may often be seen hanging like jewels over a cliff, their curved petals, yellow above; their beautiful leaves making a picture one does not forget. The name, columbine, is taken from columba, "a dove," which refers to the resemblance of its nectaries to a circle of doves around a dish—much used by ancient painters and sculptors. The columbine is the state flower of Colorado.

Skirting the rocks at the forest edge
With a running flame from ledge to ledge,
Or swaying deeper in shadowy glooms,
A smoldering fire in her dusky blooms;
Bronzed and molded by wind and sun,
Maddening, gladdening every one
With a gypsy beauty full and fine—
A health to the crimson columbine!

Elaine Goodale

COLUMBINE
Natural size

Aquilegia truncata—Crowfoot Family

Ruby Lily

This is the most fragrant of all California wild flowers or perhaps of any in the world. The perfumes of all spices seem blended and poured into their waxen cups, which they generously give out to the passing breeze. It is a mountain flower not easily found. It opens pure white, dotted with purple, and gradually turns to a ruby color. It attains the height of seven to nine feet.

Searching and strange in its sweetness,
It steals like a perfume enchanted
Under the arch of the forest, and all who
Perceive it are haunted,
Seeking, and seeking forever, till sight of
The lily is granted.

Henry Van Dyke

RUBY LILY
Slightly smaller

Lilium rubescens—Lily Family

Mission Bells & Chocolate Lily

This fritillary is one of the oddest and most beautiful of flowers. It is grace and elegance itself. It grows in the bushes of the hillside, coming up a solitary scape with leaves and buds. One is said to have been found three feet high with nineteen bells. They are not as plentiful as the red fritillaria—so that one must be very observant if he would gather a stalk of these bells.

Soundless thou art, but, as the breezes swing
Thy tiny chimes, the fairies hear their call
And troop to dance within their mystic ring
When day is done and twilight shadows fall.

F. L. W.

MISSION BELLS
Reduced one-half

Fritillaria lanceolata—Lily Family

California Poppy

The well-known and best-loved California flower is the yellow poppy. It grows in every valley and on every plain, spreading over them its gold-red mantle. Near Los Angeles are fields of poppies which are visited by hundreds of tourists and they consider it a great pleasure to gather a handful of these golden cups. The Indians boil this plant and eat it. A drug is made from the poppy which is said to cure headache and insomnia.

The golden poppy is God's gold,
The gold that lifts nor weighs us down,
The gold that knows no miser's hold,
The gold that banks not in the town,
But singing, laughing, freely spills
Its hoard far up the happy hills.

, Joaquin Miller

(COPRA DE ORO) California Poppy
Reduced one-third

Eschscholzia Californica—Poppy Family

Scarlet Fritillaria

Sharp must be the eyes that see these flowers
among the bushes, and strong must be the
one who clambers up the mountain-side to
seize as a prize a bunch of them; but, when
found, their swinging bells are so charming
and graceful that one is fully repaid for the
effort.

I kneel to one here by the rocks
That just broke, in its morning of bloom,
The pure alabaster box
Of noble and precious perfume;
I will leave this to live its bright day
And fill the whole place with its scent,
While I take but the pleasure away
Its beauty and fragrance have lent.

Aurelius Martin

SCARLET FRITILLARIA
Slightly reduced

Fritillaria coccinea—Lily Family

Ground Iris

The stately iris seems “born to the purple,” as it was the emblem of the kings of France after 1280. As a motif for ornament it goes back to the Etruscans—or earlier. The iris is found in summer among the fragrant ferns, and mingles with them its own perfume. Full of vigor and self-confidence, it stands proudly remembering its noble lineage and reminds us that goodness and usefulness are worthy the honor of all.

O flower-de-luce, bloom on, and let the river
Linger to kiss thy feet!

O flower of song, bloom on, and make forever
The world more fair and sweet.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

GROUND IRIS
Reduced one-fourth

Iris longipetala—Iris Family

Diogenes Lantern ⁊ Brodiaea

Diogenes' lantern is the children's favorite. Its knowing look and graceful nodding blossoms and its lovely fringed petals attract them. When one is found, what a shout of delight and chatter as they really talk to this friendly, wise-looking flower. This yellow flower usually grows near the lovely dark-blue brodiaea, which sends up a scape a foot or two high with five to ten flowers. The Indians eat the bulbs of the brodiaea and call them "Bo."

Upon thy slender stalk thou stand above the throng
Of lesser weeds, a purple-vestured King,
Bowling in gracious majesty, while long
The larks, thy golden-throated minstrels, sing.

Livermore

DIOGENES' LANTERN
 Natural size

HARVEST BRODLÆA
 Natural size

Calochortus amabilis—Lily Family

Brodiaea grandiflora—Lily Family

Leopard Lily

Although both names are given it, that of leopard lily seems more appropriate than tiger lily, for this brilliant flower, as the spots are so clearly marked on it. This lily has been known to grow to the height of ten feet, a giant among flowers, with from twenty-five to thirty blossoms on one plant. Its radiant recurved petals are almost sure to surprise us whenever we discover it. They may be found in countless numbers on the mountain-side near brooks or springs.

There is a place where the tiger lilies,
Like the garden of a dream,
Thick-banked and tall on either hand
Have lined a mountain stream.

And the pines are dark above that place,
And the ferns are dark below;
And the stream flows murmuring on and on,
Down from its heights of snow.

Alberta Bancroft

LEOPARD LILY (Tiger Lily)
Natural size

Lilium pardalinum—Lily Family

Farewell to Spring

The godetia is the flower fairy which heralds the arrival of bright summer-time and when it opens its crimson petals we know by this token that spring has said goodby and summer is here. In the valley of the Coast Range it covers great spaces, making the mountain meadows look as though a rosy, silken, tissue veil had been draped over them. The wild oats, *Avena fatua*, seem to be its constant companion and behind them it often hides its blushing face.

No haughty city damsel thou,
In frippery arrayed;
But, here beneath the greenwood bough,
A simple country maid.

And thou, in dainty calico
Of mingled red and white,
Art sweeter than the maids that go
In cloth of gold bedight.

F. L. W.

FAREWELL TO SPRING.
Slightly reduced

Gudetta amena—Evening Primrose Family