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WILD FLOWERS AT HOME

FIRST SERIES

WATER CROWFOOT
(Flower white)

(*Ranunculus heterophyllus*)
Ord. *Ranunculaceae*

WILD FLOWERS

AT HOME

FIRST SERIES

*Sixty photographs, by Cameron Todd, of British Flowering
Plants growing in their haunts*

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1906

First Edition, August, 1905.

Reprinted, September, 1905.

Reprinted (with corrections), February, 1906.

THE object of this little book, as of its predecessor, "Wild Birds at Home," is to awaken an interest in the wonders and beauties of Nature, and to stimulate a desire to study them. Some at least of the sixty (mostly common) flowers, of which photographs appear here, are known by name to everyone. Many people will know most of the plants by sight without knowing their names; only those who have studied botany will be able to identify all. No scientific description is attempted, but the photographs and colours of the flowers appended will enable the reader, with the further aid of the few notes at the end of the book, to identify the plants depicted with reasonable certainty. These sixty photographs were all taken in the month of June, but many of the flowers bloom on throughout the season. The nomenclature and order adopted are those of "Hooker's Student's Flora," 1884 Edition.

GREAT SPEAR-WORT
(Flower yellow)

(*Ranunculus lingua*)
Ord. *Ranunculaceæ*

UPRIGHT MEADOW CROWFOOT OR
BUTTERCUP
(Flower yellow)

(*Ranunculus acris*)
Ord. Ranunculaceae

CREEPING BUTTERCUP
(Flower yellow)

(*Ranunculus repens*)
Ord. *Ranunculaceæ*

MARSH MARIGOLD
(Flower yellow)

(*Caltha palustris*)
Ord. Ranunculaceae

YELLOW WATER-LILY
(Flower yellow)

(*Nuphar luteum*)
Ord. Nymphaeaceae

WHITE WATER-LILY
(Flower white)

(*Nymphaea alba*)
Ord. *Nymphaeaceæ*

COMMON WATER-CRESS
(Flower white)

(*Nasturtium officinale*)
Ord. *Cruciferae*

CUCKOO-FLOWER OR LADY'S SMOCK
(Flower pale purple, sometimes white)

(*Cardamine pratensis*)
Ord. Cruciferae

WILD MUSTARD, CHARLOCK
(Flower yellow)

(*Brassica Sinapis*)
Ord. *Crucifera*

SCURVY-GRASS
(Flower white)

(*Cochlearia officinalis*)
Ord. Cruciferae

(*Viola tricolor*)

RAGGED ROBIN OR CUCKOO-FLOWER
(Flower rose-colour)

(*Lychnis Flos-cuculi*)
Ord. *Caryophyllæ*

RED CAMPION
(Flower red, sometimes nearly white)

(*Lychnis diurna*)
Ord. *Caryophyllae*

GREATER STITCHWORT
(Flower white)

(*Stellaria Holostea*)
Ord. *Caryophyllæ*

MEADOW CRANE'S-BILL
(Flower purple)

(*Geranium pratense*)
Ord. Geraniaceae

HERB ROBERT OR STINKING
CRANE'S-BILL
(Flower rose-colour)

(*Geranium Robertianum*)
Ord. Geraniaceæ

BLACK MEDICK
(Flower yellow)

(*Medicago lupulina*)
Ord. Leguminosae

HOP TREFOIL
(Flower yellow)

(*Trifolium procumbens*)
Ord. Leguminosæ

COMMON BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL
(Flower yellow, some brown or orange)

(*Lotus corniculatus*)
Ord. Leguminosae

NARROW-LEAVED OR GREATER BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL
(Flower yellow)

(*Lotus uliginosus*)
Ord. Leguminosae

TUFTED VETCH
(Flower bluish purple)

(*Vicia Cracca*)
Ord. Leguminosæ

MEADOW VETCHLING
(Flower yellow)

(*Lathyrus pratensis*)
Ord. Leguminosæ

MEADOW-SWEET OR
QUEEN OF THE MEADOW
(Flower yellowish white)

(*Spiraea Ulmaria*)
Ord. Rosaceae

COMMON AVENS OR HERB BENNET
(Flower yellow)

(*Geum urbanum*)
Ord. Rosaceae

(*Fragaria vesca*)
Ord. Rosaceae

WILD STRAWBERRY
(Flower white)

MARSH CINQUEFOIL
(Flower purple)

(*Potentilla Comarum*)
Ord. Rosaceae

COMMON TORMENTIL
(Flower yellow)

(*Potentilla Tormentilla*)
Ord. Rosaceae

SILVER WEED
(Flower yellow)

(*Potentilla anserina*)
Ord. Rosaceae

COMMON LADY'S MANTLE
(Flower greenish yellow)

(*Alchemilla vulgaris*)
Ord. Rosaceae

COMMON DOG-ROSE
(Flower pink to white)

(*Rosa canina*)
(Ord. Rosaceae)

WOOD SANICLE
(Flower white)

(*Sanicula europaea*)
Ord. Umbelliferae

HEMLOCK WATER-DROPWORT
(Flower white)

(*Enanthe crocata*)
Ord. *Umbelliferae*

COMMON COW-PARSNIP
(Flower white or pinkish white)

(*Heracleum Sphondylium*)
Ord. *Umbelliferae*

WHITE WATER-REDSTRAW
(Flower white)

(*Galium palustre*)
Ord. *Rubiaceæ*

(*Galium saxatile*)
Ord. Rubiaceae

SMOOTH HEATH BEDSTRAW
(Flower white)

GOOSE-GRASS, CLEAVERS, OR ROBIN-RUN-THE-HEDGE
(Flower white)

(*Galium Aparine*)
Ord. Rubiaceae

GREAT WILD, OR CAT'S VALERIAN
(Flower pale purple)

(*Valeriana officinalis*)
Ord. *Valerianæ*

COMMON YARROW OR MILFOIL
(Flowers white, sometimes pink)

(*Achillea Millefolium*)
Ord. *Compositæ*

SCENTLESS MAYWEED
(Flower white, with yellow disc)

(*Matricaria inodora*)
Ord. *Compositæ*

GREAT WHITE OX-EYE (*Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*)
(Flower white, with yellow disc) Ord. *Compositæ*

COMMON RAGWORT
(Flower yellow)

(*Senecio Jacobaea*)
Ord. *Compositæ*

LONG-ROOTED CAT'S-EAR
(Flower yellow)

(*Hypochaeris radicata*)
Ord. *Compositæ*

BUCKBEAN OR MARSH-TREFOIL
(Flower white, tinged with pink)

(*Menyanthes trifoliata*)
Ord. *Gentianeae*

RIBWORT PLANTAIN

(*Plantago lanceolata*)
Ord. *Plantagineæ*

SEASIDE PLANTAIN

(*Plantago maritima*)
Ord. *Plantagineae*

YELLOW TOADFLAX
(Flower yellow, with orange lower lip)

(*Linaria vulgaris*)
Ord. Scrophularineæ

KNOTTED FIGWORT
(Flower purple, mixed with greenish-yellow)

(*Scrophularia nodosa*)
Ord. *Scrophularineae*

PURPLE FOXGLOVE
(Flower purple)

(*Digitalis purpurea*)
Ord. Scrophularineae

WILD THYME
(Flower light purple)

(*Thymus Serpyllum*)
Ord. Labiatæ

SELF-HEAL
(Flower blue, rarely white)

(*Brunella vulgaris*)
Ord. Labiatæ

COMMON SKULL-CAP
(Flower blue)

(*Scutellaria galericulata*)
Ord. Labiate

WHITE DEADNETTLE
(Flower white)

(*Lamium album*)
Ord. Labiate

COMMON BUGLE
(Colour blue, rarely white)

(*Ajuga reptans*)
Ord. Labiatæ

MARSH ORCHIS
(Flower usually deep lilac or dull purple)

(*Orchis latifolia*)
Ord. Orchideae

YELLOW IRIS
(Flower yellow)

(*Iris Pseud-acorus*)
Ord. *Irideæ*

BROAD-LEAVED GARLIC OR RAMSONS
(Flower white)

(*Allium ursinum*)
Ord. *Liliaceæ*

BLUE-BELL OR WILD HYACINTH
(Flower Blue)

(*Scilla nutans*)
Ord. Liliacee

LANCASHIRE BOG ASPHODEL
(Flower yellow)

(*Narthecium ossifragum*)
Ord. *Liliacea*

Some Short Notes

DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE READER IN
IDENTIFYING THE FLOWERS

ILLUSTRATED IN THIS VOLUME,

By ADAM L. GOWANS, M.A.

Water Crowfoot (Frontispiece)—In our photograph the beholder looks down upon one of the ponds in which this easily distinguishable and beautiful flower with its floating leaves is found.

Great Spear-wort (Page 6)—Another aquatic plant. Its spear-like leaf, tall, hollow stem, and large, bright, yellow flower, two inches in diameter, resembling a gigantic buttercup, cannot be mistaken. The flower of the much smaller and commoner Lesser Spear-wort is about the size of a buttercup, from which its undivided leaf easily distinguishes it.

Upright Meadow Crowfoot or Buttercup, and Creeping Crowfoot (Pages 7 and 8)—There are several common species of crowfoot, all popularly known as 'buttercups.' The Creeping Buttercup may be distinguished by its long runners, Goldielocks by its bent-back calyx, and the Bulbous Crowfoot by its bulb-like root.

The Marsh Marigold (Page 9) is found only in wet places and is easily identified by its large golden-yellow flowers and roundish leaves shown in the photograph.

The Yellow Water-lily and White Water-lily (Pages 10 and 11) cannot be mistaken. A pond or lake where these immense flowers can be seen in all their glory is worth going miles to look at.

Water-cress (Page 12)—Found in water-courses. Should be identified without difficulty from the illustration. See the leaf (*e.g.*, the good specimen in the *very* centre of the photograph) and the long wire-like pod.

The Lady's Smock (Page 13), Scurvy-grass (Page 15), and Heartsease (Page 16) are unmistakable.

The Charlock or Wild Mustard (Page 14), with its yellow flower, is so common in corn-fields that it is well-known to every one.

The rose-coloured Ragged Robin (Page 17) and Red Campion (Page 18) are often confused, but the tattered appearance of the former makes it easily distinguished on the slightest comparison of the two.

The fine photograph of the Greater Stitchwort (Page 19) should leave no doubt as to the flower it represents. The Lesser Stitchwort is very like it, but the petals are much more deeply cleft, and it is, therefore, more star-like in appearance.

Meadow Crane's-bill (Page 20)—There are always two flowers on each peduncle of this handsome plant (see the buds in pairs). Here the companion-blossom has faded. This plant is very like the **Wood Crane's-bill**, but the diameter of the flower of the latter is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch as compared with $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in the case of the former; the pedicels of the latter are erect, of the former deflexed.

Herb-Robert (Page 21)—The photograph of this pretty little plant (flower $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, two on each peduncle) is a very clear one, and with careful study of the shape of the leaf, etc., it may be distinguished with certainty from other plants which resemble it, and which will be illustrated in later volumes.

Black Medick (Page 22)—This tiny little plant, with its small heads of yellow pea-shaped flowers, each only $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, is extremely like another very common flower, the **Lesser Yellow Trefoil**. The fruit is a certain means of identification; in the **Medick** the pod is kidney-shaped, and ripens quite outside the calyx, which envelops the pod of the **Lesser Trefoil** as it ripens. Both plants are like the **Hop Trefoil** (Page 23) which has paler flowers in larger heads; the three may sometimes be found growing together, and if they are carefully compared, little points of difference will be found which make them easily distinguishable thereafter.

The pea-shaped yellow flowers of the **Bird's-foot Trefoil** (Page 24), **Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil** (Page 25), and **Meadow Vetchling** (Page 27) are very familiar objects in the country. The greater trefoil is generally a larger plant, and more erect than the lesser. The two species can be distinguished by the two upper teeth of the calyx; in the greater trefoil they diverge, in the lesser they converge. The vetchling, so like the former to a careless observer, is easily distinguished by its leaves and tendrils, and by the different arrangement of the flowers in the heads (see the left hand corners of plates on pages 25 and 27).

The beautiful photographs of the **Tufted Vetch** (Page 26), clinging by its tendrils to a rose-bush, the **Meadow-sweet** (Page 28), the **Common Avens** (page 29), the **Wild Strawberry** (Page 30), the **Marsh Cinquefoil** (Page 31), and the **Silverweed** (Page 33), are so clear that no further description is necessary.

The **Tormentil** (Page 32 (with its yellow flower of four (sometimes five) petals and pretty leaf is very common on dry pasture land. The **Common Lady's Mantle** (Page 34) is distinguished with certainty by its leaf from the other two species of **Lady's Mantle**.

The varieties of the **Wild Rose** are so numerous that they require special study to distinguish them. Of the **Dog Rose** (Page 35) alone, **Hooker** names 29 varieties.

The **Wood Sanicle** (Page 36) has so characteristic an appearance that it is easily recognised; most of the umbelliferæ, however, are difficult. The **Cow-Parsnip** (Page 38) should be distinguished by its great size and rankness. Other plants resemble the **Hemlock Water Dropwort** (Page 37) to a greater or less extent, and careful note of the leaves, etc., is necessary. This plant is poisonous.

The flowers of the different kinds of **Bedstraw** give them a characteristic stamp. The common **Smooth Heath Bedstraw** (Page 40)

does not exceed 6 inches in height, and is consequently unmistakable. The **White Water Bedstraw** (Page 39) has four to six leaves in a whorl. It is common in water-courses, while the **Goose Grass** (Page 41) may be seen in every hedge. Most children know how the hispid stems and leaves cling to the clothes of the unsuspecting passer-by. Other species of Bedstraws will be illustrated in future volumes.

With careful attention to the leaves and colours of the flowers, there should be no difficulty whatever in recognising the **Valerian** (Page 42), **Yarrow** (Page 43), **Mayweed** (Page 44), **Ox-Eye** (Page 45), and **Cat's-Ear** (page 47).

The photograph of the **Common Ragwort** (Page 46) is not so distinctive as is necessary to show the difference between that plant and the **Marsh Ragwort** (*Senecio Aquaticus*), and might serve equally well for the latter. The **Common Ragwort** may be found everywhere, the **Marsh Ragwort** only in places beside water. The two plants may easily be found growing near one another, and the decided differences are evident on comparison and quite unmistakable. The flower-heads of the common variety are much denser, the petals narrower and the leaves much more indented.

I cannot pass the **Marsh-Trefoil** (Page 49)—though it cannot be mistaken for any other plant—without a word. This is one of the most beautiful of our native flowers, and a mass of its white blossoms in a pond or marsh is a sight to be remembered.

How many of us know the proper name of the familiar **Ribwort Plantain** (Page 50), or of the **Seaside Plantain** (Page 51)?

The gorgeous colouring of the **Yellow Toadflax** (Page 52), and the peculiar appearance of the **Knotted Figwort** (Page 53), are sufficient for their identification.

The tall **Foxglove** (Page 54), the diminutive heliotrope-coloured **Wild Thyme** (Page 55), which is so common everywhere, as is the little **Self-Heal** (Page 56), present no difficulty, nor do the **Skull-Cap** (Page 57), the **White Deadnettle** (Page 58), the **Bugle** (Page 59), the appearance of each being quite characteristic.

The long slender pedicels of the **Wood Loosestrife** (Page 48) are sufficient to distinguish this plant.

There are several kinds of **Orchis**, which have a strong superficial resemblance to one another. Special study of text-books is necessary to distinguish them with absolute certainty. The **Marsh Orchis** (Page 60) is only found in marshy places, and is usually richer in colour than the **Early Purple Orchis** and **Spotted Palmate Orchis**, which are also very common plants.

The illustrations leave no doubt of the identity of the **Yellow Iris** (Page 61), **Blue Bell** (Page 63), **Garlic** (Page 62), and **Bog Asphodel** (Page 64). The strong odour of the **Garlic** alone would suffice to determine it at least.

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