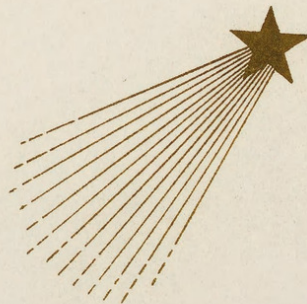


Christmas Greetings
from
Annie Hunter Knowlton



THE FLOWRING RUSH IN CANADA



The flowers have a mission to mankind.
Yet when their hosts have reached the season's height
Our sated human sense, with bounty blind, forgets the light
That never fails of beauteous change: Feeling life's burdens bind
We mortals grow indifferent—till comes a challenge kind.
That Challenge sense translates; when heard aright
We turn with "Master! Lord! dispelled our night:
So 'twas we saw a stately flower bending in the wind.

A stately flower stranger to our common way,
On river banks in lovely Canada, recalled papyrus linked with Egypt
old,
And Moses' basket hidden carefully: (A child again we heard the story
told.)
Oh baffling flower in your stately dress, with rush-like leaves of green
from ruddy stalks,
Your tea-rose petals in a nimbus spread, and yet your gracious name
our memory mocks.
Whence have you come? How travelled here today?
And hast thou come to Canada from Eastern lands, we pray you say!
You only sway and nod to whispering winds, to sun's reflected gold.

If now, from lands far East, and missed where once you grew
To loved America on God's free soil
Thou art come, by birds or planted by man's toil
How'er it chance, we know God willed it so. He also knew
What pulses beat within, when scattered, few
The little bands of exiles came from lands of hate and toil
To make 'neath fairer skies a finer growth the years should not despoil.
When garnered in the reaping of the Lord—the perfect plant; the
Race—to purpose true!

Butomus Umbellatus

Introduced into Canada from Eastern Europe and the East.



Knowlton, Lydia Annie Hunter. 1886. "Knowlton, Annie Hunter undated."
Walter Deane correspondence

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