

The clover-like foliage of the wood-sorrel, studded with its rose-veined blossoms, makes a dainty carpet for our Canadian woods. At the very name comes a vision of mossy nooks where the sunlight only comes on sufferance, piercing its difficult path through the tent-like foliage of the forest, resting only long enough to become a golden memory.

How happy the little complaisant flowers are ! There are no disturbing elements about either their blooms or their leaves. This is because they do not subject themselves to any of the evils of dissipation. Every child knows how the wood-sorrel "goes to sleep" by drooping its three leaflets until they touch back to back at evening, regaining the horizontal at sunrise—a performance which protects the peculiarly sensitive leaf from cold by radiation.

The early Italian painters availed themselves of its chaste beauty. Mr. Ruskin says : "Fra Angelico's use of the *Oxalis acetosella* is as faithful in representation as touching in feeling. The triple leaf of the plant and white flower stained purple, probably gave it strange typical interest among the Christian painters."

In Europe it bears the name "Hallelujah." This title is said to have sprung from St. Patrick's endeavor to prove to his rude audience the possibility of a Trinity in Unity from the three-divided leaves. By many this ternate leaf is still considered the shamrock of the Irish.

The specific name, *acetosella*—vinegar salt, reminds us that from this plant the druggist obtains salts of lemon.