



An Everlasting Flower, *Acroclonium*

### My Favorite Flower\*

Mrs. A. R. Muir, Port Dalhousie, Ont.

It is most difficult to decide which flower is the ideal of my fancy—there is such an extensive range and galaxy of floral beauties distinctively attractive in color, form and growth; they display such artistic excellence, such superior traits of loveliness and refinement of expression. Every flower has its own distinct character and facial expression, its own questionings and contentedness—or, if not suited to its environments, it will show its discontent immediately: Is it not so? Have you not noticed a neglected plant with its expression of dejection? It has given up trying to be bright and cannot thrive on starvation and non-support. Plants and flowers tended with thoughtful care by one who loves their every habit, form and hue will not refuse to flaunt their beauty in thankful gratitude.

I hesitate to single out one special flower, as my heart yearns to enfold them all as especial favorites. However, my choice is the fragrant violet, with its royal hues. It is a much-loved flower and a greatly-sought-after and popular addition to one's toilet. It is adapted for the decoration of the palace and the cottage, the sick room and the garden-of-rest. Our deferential thanks are due to the "One who paints the wayside flower." In sickness and health, in poverty and wealth, the violet comes as a peaceful and tender messenger.

Flowers are said to be "God's smile upon earth." It is said that in time our expert scientists will perfect the Corollaphone, and that our garden flowers will

\*One of the essays that competed for the special prizes recently offered by Messrs. Hermann Simmonds, of Toronto, and R. B. Whyte, of Ottawa, for the subject, "My Favorite Flower and How to Grow It."

sing to us their shades of color, giving out various notes, each separate colored petal a distinct tone. With the perfume of our garden, the musical harmony will be complete. "Come and hear my garden sing" will then be our friendly invitation.

#### CULTURAL METHODS.

In the spring the soil in my garden is dug and pulverized and mixed with wood-ashes, and ashes from the burnt garden refuse, and decayed leaves. The violets are planted and frequently watered until established in growth, the beds kept free from weeds and the soil, a sandy loam, stirred occasionally. This is all that is required for an abundant bloom. The bed, being permanent, is left the rest of the year until the autumn, when a few leaves are spread over the bed.

When spring ushers in her balmy days I remove the covering and renew the wood-ashes as a fertilizer. I grow many varieties of the wood violet also with the greatest success, treated as the English kinds in every instance. The last plant to bloom is a wild white perennial violet flowering in August. The violet plants are grown on a southern exposure.

Treat your floral friends with thoughtful attention and they will return that kindness a thousandfold.

### Varieties of Paeonies

R. B. Whyte, Ottawa, Ont.

The following is a list of the best twelve varieties of paeonies, regardless of cost. In this list, P. after the name, means that the variety has a sweet perfume.

Marguerite Gerard, P.: flesh color, creamy white centre.

Marie Crousse, P.: globular flower, salmon-pink.

Festiva Maxima: white, tipped with carmine.

Asa Gray, P.: salmon-flesh and carmine-lilac.

Therese: flesh-shaded pink, very large, flat flowers.

Mlle. Leonie Calot, P.: soft flesh color.

Marie Lemoine: sulphur-white shaded chamois, slightly tipped with carmine.

Martin Cahuzac; crimson-red to maroon, very dark.

Mons. Jules Elie: pink, shading darker at base of petals, very large.

Albert Crousse: deep pink, large.

Madame d'Hour: carmine-pink, very free bloomer.

Grandiflora Nivea Plena: white, centre sulphur and salmon, carmine stripes.

The foregoing twelve varieties can be laid down in Ottawa from France for ten dollars.

#### TWELVE FIRST-CLASS VARIETIES

Festiva Maxima: white, tipped carmine.

Mlle. Leonie Calot, P.: soft flesh color.

Madame de Galhau, P.: flesh-pink, shaded salmon.

Livingstone, P.: soft pink.

La Tulipe, P.: flesh-pink to white, carmine tips.

Duc de Nemours, P.: sulphur-white.

Charlemagne: creamy-white, shaded chamois.

Felix Crousse: bright carmine.

Modele de Perfection, P.: pink, shaded rose.

La Rosiere, P.: creamy-white, straw colored centre, very sweet.

Avalanche, P.: milk-white, cream centre.

Couronne d'Or: creamy-white, some petals bordered ermine.

The above twelve varieties can be laid down in Ottawa from France for six dollars.

Good varieties of Paeonies, which can be bought locally for twenty-five cents each, include:

Rosea Elegans: soft pink, shaded salmon.

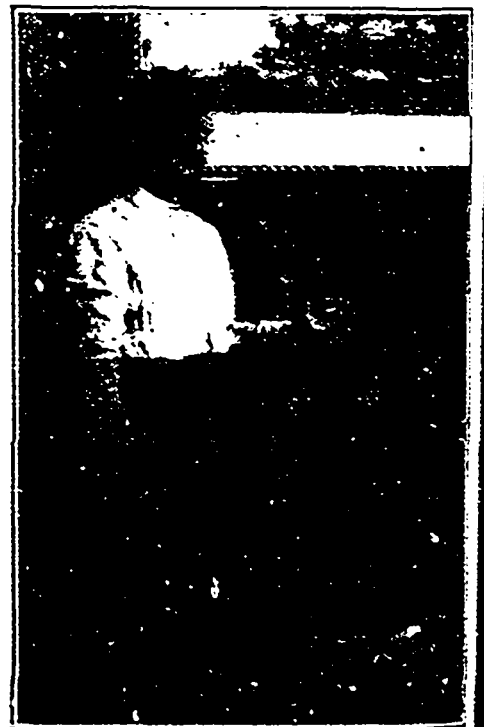
Duke of Wellington: sulphur-white fragrant, free bloomer.

Queen Victoria, P.: white, cream centre.

Festiva Maxima: white, tipped carmine.

Officinalis rubra: crimson.

Officinalis rosea: pink.



A Night-Blooming Cereus

The plant here shown, grown by Mrs. W. H. E. of Peterboro, bore several blooms which came into flower one at a time several nights apart. These flowers are very beautiful but lasting only a few hours. They begin to open between six and eight o'clock in the evening, fully expanded by eleven and by three or four in the morning are closed.