

## CELANDINE; SNOWDROP;

BLUE PERIWINKLE; RED DEAD-NETTLE; COMMON COLTSFOOT;  
GROUND IVY; VERONICA; GERMANDER-SPEEDWELL;  
AND LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY.

THE Celandine, so often mistaken by country children for the buttercup, is one of the very earliest of our wild Wayside Flowers that makes a show sufficient to attract the eye, and may, during a mild Winter, be found in flower under the shelter of warm hedgerows, beside the primrose, as early as the close of February. Even when not in bloom, the cluster of large, bright, dark-green leaves arrests the attention, through the very nakedness that surrounds them. Then, it is a grand, golden-coloured, star-shaped flower, often displaying as many as nine petals, all bold, bright, and pointed, and fine enough to decorate the breast of a royal prince; nor do we know any other wild flower that makes so gaudy a show so early in the year. This beautiful plant belongs to the genus *Ranunculus*, of which there are at least twenty species indigenous to our island, one of which is the common buttercup, and another the wood-crowfoot, the most graceful of the whole genus. It is pleasant to peep at this *gay* gold flower—the lesser celandine—rising out from amid the dead leaves which the winds of Winter have blown under the hedgerows, and to know that it is one of the first heralds that has brought tidings from the land of flowers of the approach of Spring. We have