

chiefly showing as blue clay or marl about the streams; the woods are mostly hardwood, beech and maple; hardly any spruce, a good deal of hemlock and some white pine; cedar and tamarack abundant in swampy parts; the upper soil sandy or peaty; the country rolling and rich in springs. The fern-flora is in the main characteristic of limestone districts; in some of the higher parts the land is abundantly strewn with granite boulders of glacial origin.

My favorite haunt was a stretch of country from west to east, some 5 miles north of Lake Ontario; rolling country with rich hardwoods and upland pastures, peaty swamps in the hollows and crested above with ridges of pine. The best approach from the town to the west end of this rolling country is by the Midland Railway going north from Port Hope towards Peterborough; just west of the railway quite close to the town lies Monkey Mountain, a tract of sandy turf and grassy slopes, pine trees on the upper levels, and intersected by valleys full of springs and swamps, with running streams of cold clear water that harbour speckled trout. At the foot of the grassy slopes near swamp level are some fine colonies of 2 of our *Osmundas*, the Cinnamon and the Interrupted Ferns. These fruit early in June and before July the fertile fronds have begun to wither away; the more famous Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis*, I did not find nearer than a tamarack swamp 10 miles away, though last summer I found to my delight a few plants of it just north of my rolling country and quite close to the railway track. The Royal Fern in maturity is a magnificent plant, but when young it has a singular beauty of its own; the frond is coppery in hue, lush and soft in texture, something like the young frond of the Maidenhair with its half-furled drooping bannerets of yellowish pink.

The Maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*) is quite common in our maple and beech woods in somewhat shaded situations, wherever the soil is peaty and rich; it requires less shade than the Oak Fern which otherwise is found in similar (or the same) haunts. It is hard to analyse beauty, nor is it advisable; in the Maidenhair Fern symmetry has much to do with its charm; the contrast of colour between the shining ebony stem with its hair-like divisions above and the delicate green of the pinnae adds not a little thereto; and the tree-like effects of the spreading horse-shoe of branchlets set with wedge-shaped pinnae, translucent, membranous, like an oak of some fairy forest, of such transcendent delicacy, this unites with the other qualities to give the fern a dainty elegance and grace unrivalled among its kind.