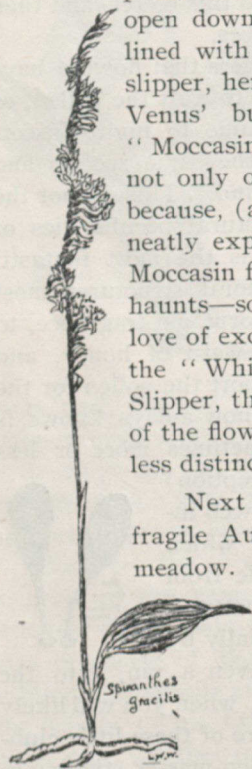


And now for a few of the plants of this order which graciously dignify and embellish our flora.

First, the best known, the Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) is in many ways among the most striking of our flowers. You find it in early summer in bogs or damp woods, a solitary bloom on each flower-stock, rising from between a pair of oblong, light green leaves, the summit capped by a greenish bract under which the flower hangs. The several parts of the latter are inconspicuously coloured, except one petal which is expanded into an inflated pendant sack, two inches long, in colour pink, with darker veins. This pouch, (which is open down the front, with edges rolled inwards and lined with long white hairs,) suggested the idea of a slipper, hence the Greek name *Cypripedium*, meaning Venus' buskin. But it always seems to me that "Moccasin-flower" is a much more appropriate name, not only on account of the shape of the pouch, but because, (as the author of "Wild Flowers of Canada" neatly expressed it) "Something in common has the Moccasin flower with the Indian who once shared its haunts—something of his spirit of freedom and his love of exclusion." We have also in rare localities, the "White," the "Queens," the "Showy" Lady's Slipper, the most beautiful of the race. All the parts of the flower are white, the pouch decorated more or less distinctly with purple stripes—a truly lovely plant.



Next we have the "Ladies' Tresses,"—sweet, fragile August blooms, children of the road-side and meadow. Their technical name, (*Spiranthes*—a coil or curl of flowers,) well describes the most striking of their characteristics,—the florets are arranged in spirals on the slender flower stalks. The species *S. Romanzoffiana*, with its 3-rowed spike of flowers, looks like a creamy-white, twisted ear of wheat, while *S. gracilis* suggests a grass stalk with a piece of white wool twisted loosely around its upper part. But a magnifying glass