

tells us, one little flower is more magnificently arrayed than the richest monarch of ancient times.

And in these flowers every number that would cause an unharmonious division of color is avoided, and every number that causes the colours to blend sweetly and beautifully, produced; we find the trofoil, the cinquefoil, the sixfoil, the perfect number seven, the flower with twelve divisions, and most of them reducible to proportions of a cross within a circle, or segments of a circle; and the appearance of every star is that of a cross within a circle. But to say a few words on the beauty of these common things, as far as I am at all competent to speak of them, nothing can be more strikingly beautiful than the simplest and most ordinary flowers.

Let us take first the *Ribes sanguineum*. Can any thing be more exquisite than the arrangement and colouring of this flower? The principal stem is straight, and garnished with a few leaves, for the most part arranged in triplets, and immediately above or below each of these is set the flower-stem, opening at the top into a pendant cluster of eight or ten of the most charmingly coloured and distinct flowers, each a cinquefoil, cup-like in form, the outside being a rich crimson, fringed with pencillings of black, the inner surface a delicate pink, with five little dashes of rose colour, corresponding to the five leaved stem, with a little crown of green in the centre to set off the whole.

Observe again the purple *Petunia*. Here the stem is bent into a most elegant curve, and branches off into side stems, with two broadish and well developed leaves of singular beauty, springing from the main stem at just intervals. On the side-stems are set the flowers. These are five-sided and of a lovely purple, whilst a small wheel of black in the centre, set off by a white eye, darts forth its rays to every part of the circumference, and gives great richness to the colour and distinctness to the shape.

Can any arrangement be more lovely than that of the *Minulus Smithii*? On a short thickish stem of green and pink, are set four pear-shaped leaves, with serrated edges of light green, divided by seven most graceful curves of a darker green, edged slightly with brown, and all seven meeting in a point at the upper part of the leaf. As a contrast to these fine forms, the flower springing from the main stem, forms itself into two or more cups of trumpet form, and of the purest yellow, with a bright crimson spot in the centre, and a kind of "milky way," if such an expression may be allowed, of crimson spots scattered over a portion of its surface.

Observe the beauty of the *Hibiscus Lindleii*. Here we have a stem nearly straight, entirely green, with pendant leaves,