



Red Wake-robin.
(Trillium Erectum).

"dog's-tooth-violet" of the botanists—when they do not use a longer word (Erythronium Americanum). Why the name "violet" has been attached to this flower is a mystery; the designation "dog's tooth," which has some reference to the shape of the root, is scarcely more evident. "Yellow adder's tongue" is better, since it gives some clue to the color, while the smooth, blotched surface of the leaves might, in some sort, suggest the skin of a snake; but the idea is not pleasant, and it is not strange that such a nature-lover as John Burroughs should have suggested instead, "fawn lily" or "trout lily." It is hard, however, to change a name, and so "dog's-tooth violet" has become rooted, more strongly, perhaps, than the plant itself, which, year by year, becomes more rare, and in some places has become almost extinct.

The blood-root (Sanguinaria Canadensis) is another of the early flowers, and one of the most beautiful. You will find it in the deep glades of the wood, sometimes in fence-corners, where forest trees and shrubs have been left growing. At first, if you are not sure of the difference, you may confuse this plant with the wild mandrake, which belongs to an entirely different family, the barberry; whereas the blood-root is one of the poppies. Both plants have con-



Dog's-tooth Violet.
(Erythronium Americanum).

spicuous light-green leaves and white, waxy flowers, and when growing present a sort of superficial resemblance. But a few minutes' examination, even of rough, easily-recognized distinctions, will soon show you the difference. In the first place, the leaves of the mandrake are umbrella-shaped, whereas the deeply-lobed (5 to 7 lobed) leaves of the blood-root are not. The flowers of the mandrake, too, grow on short stemlets (pedicels) springing from between the two leaf-stalks, whereas those of the blood-root appear on naked stems, or scapes, springing from the root. Then there are finer distinctions, briefly designated as follows. The blood-root has from 8 to 12 petals, numerous stamens, and but 2

sepals, which soon fall off, as, indeed, do those of the mandrake also; the mandrake has 6 to 9 petals, stamens usually double the number of petals, and 6 sepals. The blood-root, too, is scentless, while the mandrake has a rather disagreeable odor. There are other distinctions, but perhaps one more will be sufficient to notice; break the stem of the blood-root and you will find a bright red juice issuing from it, giving it a curious appearance of bleeding. This juice was at one time much used by the Indians for painting their faces.

We shall touch on but one more wild-flower to-day, the marsh marigold (Caltha palustris) of the swamps. You all know this flower—the "May-bud" of Shakespeare, the flower of which Tennyson's May-queen says, "And the wild marsh marigold shines like fire in swamps and hollows gray"—but, perhaps, many of you have been calling it "buttercup." Marsh marigolds are not buttercups, although they are their cousins, as both are members of the same family, Ranunculaceae or Crowfoot, the same to which the hepatica also belongs. . . . If you want to be very sure of the plant, however, examine it closely. You will find the flowers made up of from 5 to 9 petal-like sepals of a bright yellow. In the center of each flower are numerous little yellow stamens surrounding from 5 to 14 little green pistils. . . . Now turn to the other parts of the plant. You will find the stems smooth, hollow, erect, and branching at the top, and the large, smooth, green leaves somewhat kidney-shaped, the upper ones growing quite close to the stem. The leaves and young shoots, by the way, make excellent greens, which are in much favor among the country people of England.

I have not given you a very close botanical description of any of these flowers, it is true; but what of that? I have only been describing to you a few old friends, I trust, and helping you to call them by name when next you see them. M.

THE FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Spring is here at last, and we must plan for our gardens. Everything seems to be putting on new life. How our house plants grow, and bloom, as the days get warm and sunny! Now is the time to start geranium slips for garden-blooming; they grow so rapidly, and bloom profusely outdoors. The double crimson and scarlet are especially pretty, bordered with white alyssum or candy-tuft.

The mixed shirley poppies are a new picture every morning. They can be scattered anywhere, and seem to blend with everything else.

Last year we had a great variety of dahlias, and, as the season was damp, I transplanted clusters of poppies among them. They bloomed long before the dahlias, and the pretty bright colors, among the dark green leaves of the larger plants, were very attractive. Then we had a pansy bed in a shady corner; a nasturtium rockery, asters, verbenas, stock, balsams, and the never-to-be-forgotten sweet pea, besides our roses and perennials. They all went in a couple of borders, and a few small beds, but they were a joy to us all, and the admiration of everyone who saw them. Then, besides this, is the pleasure of giving a bouquet to our less-favored friends, who do not seem to have the time or taste for such work, but still enjoy them. How often may the sick-room be brightened by a little remembrance of this kind, or the sad home cheered by a suitable wreath as a last token of love and sympathy.

The flower garden is an education along right lines. How the children love it. Give them a bed to sow for themselves. How they will tend it, and watch its development, and, as we live in such companionship, we must get in closer touch with the "Great Painter of the Fruits and Flowers."

Our vegetable garden is a part of the field, and is put in with plow, harrow, and cultivator; woman's part being to aid in planting, weeding, gathering and preparing for the table.

Soon as the ground is dry enough to work, we plant our Eschalottes, which we find a very valuable crop. They mature early, and are ready for use any

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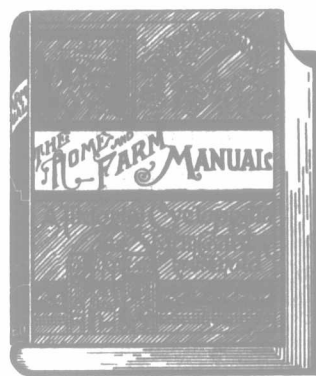
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