

## CULTIVATION OF NATIVE PLANTS.

an agreeable and delicate fragrance. The Knotgrass, so common in our door-yards, has a pretty little white flower; the Thyme leaved Speedwell, often found growing in lawns, has very beautiful little pale blue flowers, in terminal racemes,

"Nor India's rarest gem outvies  
The little Blue-eyed Grass."

Among native plants, we have such climbers as *Clematis Virginiana*, the Virgin's Bower, sometimes seen on verandas, and which retains its silky mass of feathery tails for a long time in the fall; *Adlumia cirrhosa*, Mountain Fringe, with small but pretty leaves and pink flowers; *Vitis cordifolia*, our native Grape, with fresh and luxuriant foliage and bright berries; *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, the Virginia Creeper, more generally grown and better known than most native plants; and *Echinocystis lobata*, the Wild Cucumber, an annual, easily grown from seeds.

Among bog and aquatic plants, we have *Nymphaea odorata*, the Sweet-scented Water Lily; *Nymphaea tuberosa*, the Tuberous Water Lily; *Nuphar advena*, the Common Yellow Pond Lily; *Typha latifolia*, the well-known Cat Tail or Reed Mace; *Caltha palustris*, Marsh Marigold; *Calla palustris*, Marsh Calla, which seems to offer a fine opportunity to the hybridist for cross-fertilization with either the Little Gem or common Calla; *Alisma plantago*, Water Plantain; *Acorus calamus*, Sweet Flag; *Iris versicolor*, Blue Flag; with different varieties of *Sarracenia*, Pitcher Plant; *Lemna*, Duckweed; *Sagittaria*, Arrow-head; various aquatic orchids and ferns, and numerous other plants, which will thrive in deep or shallow water or in merely damp places, and whose culture can be best understood from their natural mode of growth.

Nature has distributed our Ferns with

a generous hand, and when required for the flowerless nook or shaded bank, they can be found in abundance in every locality. One only *Adiantum pedatum*, the Maiden Hair Fern, need be particularly mentioned, because it is not known and appreciated as it deserves. It grows about a foot high, and its black shining stems, forked fronds and recurved branches, present a simple grace of outline and elegance of form that are unsurpassed in beauty. It flourishes in rich soil with good drainage and plenty of moisture, and does well in shade or not too strong sun.

Some of our native plants that do best in ordinary cultivation may be noticed in brief detail:

*Achillea millefolium* Yarrow or Milfoil, has white and purple flowered forms, very common and not of much value; but the rose colored form (*roseum*) is a jewelled beauty, its heads of flowers going well with the fern-like foliage. It is in bloom for two months, but is, like most of the Achilleas, inclined to spread.

*Anemone nemorosa*, Wood Anemone, grows not more than 6 inches high and blooms in May. Flowers white, tinged with purple, leaves dissected, trifoliate. There is a red flowered variety which is very attractive.

*Anemone Pennsylvanica* or *dichotoma*, Pennsylvanian Anemone, grows in low meadows, about 18 inches high and often flowers from June till September. It has showy, pure white flowers, held above the foliage, and does well in shade.

*Aquilegia Canadensis*, Canada columbine or wild honeysuckle, one of the best of the columbines, 1 to 2 ft. high, has brilliant scarlet and yellow flowers in May and June, and is sure to please the most fastidious.