

the plant; and 2d. the *limb* or expansion of it. In a monopetalous flower the part by which the blossom is affixed to the plant is called the *tube*.

The following are the principal varieties of blossoms which are characterised by the shape and arrangement of the Petals. 1st. When the Blossom is in the shape of a hollow tube as in the Privet or Hony-suckle, it is called *Tubular*.

2d. The *Bell-shaped* blossom, whose figure is sufficiently characterised by its name; and an example of which is met with in the cup of the cherry, lily of the valley, &c. &c. 3d. In the flower of the Dogstongue we find the base of the petal of a tubular form, with its limb conical and bent outwards, forming what is called a *Funnel-shaped Blossom*.—Besides these we have *Salver-shaped*, *Wheel-shaped* and *cruciform* blossoms; the figures of which are indicated with sufficient accuracy from their names. Some Botanical writers have attempted to distinguish different varieties of blossoms, from the forms of the edges of the Petals in the same manner as varieties among the leaves were characterised; but this is unnecessary.

The last variety of blossoms we shall notice here is founded upon both the shape and arrangement of the Petals; and is called the *Butterfly-shaped* blossom, an example of this is met with in the common pea. All blossoms of this kind consist of four Petals. The first which is uppermost and generally the largest is called *The Standard*. On each side of this are placed the two next, called the *wings*; and the fourth lies between those having a resemblance from its position to the body of the fly, and is called the *keel*.

The next part of the flower which claims our attention, is what are termed the *chives* or in Botanical language the *stamens*. These are situated immediately within the blossom; are supposed to be formed of a continuation of the woody part of the plant; and merit close attention as it is upon the number of these the classification of Plants depends. For this last purpose they are particularly well adapted, for although they differ in number in different plants, they are always found the same in number in plants of the same kind. Withering gives the following general definition of the chives and which seems to be one of the best we have. He says "they are slender thread like substances placed within the blossom and surrounding the pointals."

The chives are composed of three separate parts, upon the different forms of which Botanists have founded a great number of varieties, of which only a few of the most conspicuous require to be mentioned here. These are first, *The thread or filament* which is a slender body springing from the base of the flower and performing the office of a stalk, for supporting the second part. This last is a small knob or bulb commonly shaped like an *arrow head* and hence called the *Anther*. The third and last part of the chives is a fine powdery substance contained within the Anther to which the name of the *Pollen* has been given. In former times this last substance was considered as a part of the anther; but a further investigation by the help of the microscope shows it to be a substance *sui generis*, differing in appearance in different flowers; but from being found in all of them, it is considered as essentially necessary to vegetation.