

HOW TO USE THE KEY AND THE FLORA.

Assuming that the student has carefully read the Introductory part of this work, and is familiar with the ordinary botanical terms, and the chief variations in plant-structure as there set forth, it should, with the aid of the accompanying Key, be a very simple task to refer to its proper Family any Canadian wild plant of common occurrence. To illustrate the method of using this Key, let us suppose that specimens of the following plants have been gathered, and that it is desired to ascertain their botanical names, that is, the name of the Genus and the Species of each:—Red Clover, Strawberry, Blue Flag, and Cat-tail Flag.

All of these produce flowers of some kind, and must therefore be looked for under the head of FLOWERING, OR PHANEROGAMOUS PLANTS.

With the specimen of Red Clover in hand, and the book open at page xi., we find that we have first to determine whether our plant is Exogenous or not. The veining of the leaves suggests that it is so; and this impression is confirmed by the fact that the parts of the flower are in fives. Then, is the plant an ANGIOSPERM? As the seed will be found enclosed in an ovary, we answer—Yes. Has the plant both calyx and corolla? Yes. Are the parts of the corolla separate? Here a little doubt may arise; but suppose we answer—Yes. Then our plant will be found somewhere among the POLYPETALOUS EXOGENS. Proceeding with the enquiries suggested under this heading:—Are the stamens more than twice as many as the petals? We find that they are not. Turn then to the heading marked B, page xiii., “Stamens not