

PREFACE

"When the book of life falls open at the page of spring," the snow-crowned mountains rule over an enchanting land of foliage, ferns and fungi, and the alpine meadows are ablaze with bright-hued flowers that grow luxuriantly beneath the broad blue tent of the sky.

Held close in the curved arms of the cliffs, the patches of verdure, starred with these wondrous-tinted blossoms, are a revelation to the traveller. From the mountains of the Yukon and Alaska to the hills of Nova Scotia and New England, in the Rockies, the Selkirks and the mountain ranges of Montana, Dakota, Washington, Oregon, California and other States, you will find that the same miracle has been wrought. On the lower levels white-flowered, scarlet-fruited shrubs mingle with the Wintergreens, Larkspurs, Violets and Columbines; flaming Indian Paint Brushes, Gentians, Queen-cups and purple Vetches cover many a slope; here a valley is carpeted with yellow Lilies, Gaillardias, Arnicas and Golden-rods — a glorious Field-of-the-Cloth-of-Gold — and there some mossy plateau is gay with arctic-alpine Androsaces, Stonecrops, Everlastings and the trailing vines of the sweet-scented Northern Twin-flowers; while in the crannies among the rocks Moss Campions, Romanzoffias and Saxifrages find a foothold; and down beside the ice-born streams grow beds of Wild Parsley, Water Willow Herb, Musk Flower, Lobelia and Ladies' Tresses.