

#### THE CARDINAL-FLOWER.

and season of flowering, contributing its full share to the beauty of our summer and autumn landscape. It comes in with the heat, and goes out with the frost.

It is said to be easy of cultivation in gardens where moist places may be found into which to transplant it. It seems to be capable of crossing in a wild state with a large blue-flowered species of the *Lobelia*, common in our woods. Examples of hybrids produced in nature which show marked characteristics of both species are not unknown. Whether the hybrids propagate any other way than by shoots I know not.

The genus *Lobelia* comprises some two hundred species scattered over the world, about twenty of which are natives of this country, though strange to say none have ever yet been found on the Pacific coast. Botanically considered, the genus is related to such composite as the Asters on the one side and to the Campanulas or Bell-flowers on the other. A comparison of the parts, as for example, of the pistil and stamens with those of the Aster, and the corolla with that of the Bell-flower, would make the relationship apparent to any observer.

Botanists have noticed that many species of *Lobelia* are fertilized by help of insects, as I have had occasion to show is true of several other flowers, whose natural history has been given in this book and in "Beautiful Wild Flowers." But in the Cardinal-flower we have an example of a plant depending upon birds for help in the act of pollenization. As will easily be seen by an inspection of the flower or of the plate, the anthers and partly the filaments of the stamens are glued together at their sides forming a close tube. The pollen is produced on the inside of this and discharged from the open bearded mouth at the end.