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VEGETATION IN THE BERMUDAS.—PART. II. FLOWERING SHRUBS.

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The greater part of the trees, shrubs and plants of Bermuda are not as a rule indigenous, but they have become so spread and scattered in every direction that it is a difficult matter to distinguish what may be called wild from the cultivated. The mildness of climate, abundant sunshine, moist atmosphere, and varied soil all conduce to luxuriant growth. Only the most striking shrubs can be alluded to in a short article, and that only in a cursory manner, but sufficient enough to attract the attention of the reader.

Foremost amongst the shrubs is the "Match-me-if-you-can" (*Poinsettia pulcherrima*), a handsome growth of from 5 to 7 feet high, with branches not unlike those of the Sumach, and which terminate in clusters of greenish red and yellow flowers, surrounded by a whorl of large leaf-like brackets of the brightest scarlet from 6 to 10 inches in diameter. To see one of these shrubs in full bloom in the late autumn and early winter almost dazzles the eye with their bright hues.

The Hibiscus (*H. mutabilis*) grows from 10 to 15 feet high, or sometimes more. Its leaves are of a bright green, heart-shaped, and the shrub is covered with large scarlet flowers 4 inches in diameter, occasionally changing to pink or pinkish white. It keeps in full bloom nearly all the year round, buds succeeding buds as the season advances.

The Oleander (*Nerium Oleander*) is a bushy evergreen shrub from 4 to 20 feet high, thickly branched from the base. Introduced into Bermuda years ago, it is now one of the most striking features of the landscape. From early spring until