

only energy and enterprise to be transformed into an attractive and inviting watering place.

But neither plain nor hamlet must delay us at present; it is rather the flora of the plain, and of the sandy region near it, and of this one flower that is to attract us to-day. For among the wiry grass and the creeping lycopodiums, side by side with the beautiful pedate violet, *Viola pedata* (Linnæus), and many another flower, grows one little known as an inhabitant of our Province, except indeed as a border for garden-beds, one little known to botanists as a native, because confined to this sandy region, and reaching its northernmost limit—facts discovered by the writer himself—in North Norfolk; a plant which according to the American books is confined to the dry hilly regions of the Appalachians.

In dense, turfy, mossy masses lies our plant, close to the ground, so greatly like to both moss and pink as to merit the local names of "moss pink," "dwarf pink," "ground pink," while really neither moss nor pink, but a true phlox (*Phlox subulata*, Linnæus). A phlox with much-branched turfy, half erect or prostrate, downy stems, crowded, awl-shaped, rigid leaves, clustered like those of pine and of spruce. True phlox flowers, few to each stem, with green, sharply-rigid, five-sepalled calyx; white, rose-coloured, crimson or sometimes sky-blue or lilac, nearly plain or much variegated, salver-shaped, five-parted, separable corolla, bearing the five stamens alternate to its five petal divisions, and finally a three-celled, superior pistil, ripening in early June into a little pod. And now, having sketched however roughly, its more important features, notice others not so apparent.

Let us notice first of all how happily correlated is the plant to its home. Dry, healthy-looking, prostrate in habit, adapted to dry, sandy, scantily-

wooded hillsides and plains; dry, healthy-looking, prostrate in habit, adapted to catch every drop of water whether in dew or in rain, before it soaks away through the all too permeable soil, as well to protect that soil from too rapid evaporation of the fallen water. Vainly we seek it in the fertile clay plain of Kent and Essex, and in the warm loam of Oxford, Elgin, Middlesex, Kent and Bothwell counties; soil so poor as to be despised by all gives it a home. And yet there are other as barren tracts of Ontario where also we seek it vainly, so that some other factor than barrenness of soil must be requisite for the production of our plant. The long and billowy sand and gravel stretches of Grey and Bruce counties in Northern Ontario, rising till a maximum of seventeen hundred feet above the tide is reached, seem too wet, or perhaps too austere in climate for our little phlox, to say nothing of the barren rocky stretches of Hastings, Frontenac and Leeds of Eastern Ontario, and the still further counties Prescott and Russell. Wet many of them are, although sandy or rocky; and as for austerity in climate, a great difference of temperature due partly to latitude, partly to altitude, exists as we know. It is no exaggeration to say that one may leave the high gravel, swampy region, or the more eastern gneissic, limestone and sandstone areas, amid leafless trees and naked shrubs, and in a few hours, at distances varying from ninety to two hundred miles, according as one leaves the western or the eastern district referred to, arrive among leafy trees, opening orchard-blossoms and verdant shrubs. And from the fact that our plant is absent from the northern and eastern barren regions of our Province, we must conclude that climate is the other factor limiting the plant to Norfolk County only. And yet the plant is divinely adapted,