

*dioicum*. On reaching the woods, I found there no river or stream or streamlet, nor any spot at all where one would expect that species of *Thalictrum*; but I was slow in reaching the woodland destination because of the interesting objects—botanical—which I met with along the railway. The botanist in a prairie country always makes the railroads his highway as a pedestrian, because along such line only can he hope to find strips of prairie land that were never overturned by the plow, and where remnants of the original native plants of the region have stood chances of survival.

The first half-mile or so eastward from Strathroy by the railway is low prairie land, at least now, though almost doubtless it may have been wet timber land originally, the Sydenham River near which Strathroy was built being well timbered, like other streams of the region, all along its course. To the plant associations of this half-mile of low moist prairie I shall return later; but the boundary of this low land, at the eastward, is a low but broad ridge of dry and light sandy soil, perhaps a glacial deposit, or else an ancient bank of the river now a half-mile distant. The railway has been cut through this sandy ridge, and the land on the sides of the track is prairie never yet broken by the plow. On the northwestward slope of this slight elevation, under that protection from cattle which the railway fences secure to many an easily extinguished native flower, I recognized, even before I had come very near the spot, a fine colony of an old favorite not seen by me before for many a year, *Erythrocoma triflora*, the Three-flowered Avena, or Three-flowered Geum. This is one of several beautiful early spring flowers which botanists and lovers of wild flowers in Wisconsin, and in Michigan a generation ago, knew as the earliest things of spring, and they sought it as they did the Pasque Flower, *Pulsatilla Nuttalliana* and *Ranunculus rhomboideus* on the bleakest and coldest exposures of the knolls of glacial drift, where alone either one of the three was ever to be seen. Of course in the middle of June in western Ontario the *Erythrocoma* was past its flowering, but the tufts of soft feathery coma, that as an appendage to the head of seeds is almost as red as the flower itself—these remain until the beginning of summer and render a colony of the plants a thing of beauty as long as they last.

On this same slope I observed a single plant of a violet that I had not met with before, nor have I seen it since in any later travels. As to foliage alone it might have been *V. fimbriatula*, but it had three good marks to preclude its being referred to that common and rather widely dispersed species. Its stout root-stock was widely and multifariously branched, so that the plant as a whole formed quite a broad tuft. Entirely past the period