

grayish colour, and smooth. The flowers are produced in large panicles at the top of the stalks; they are larger than those of the former sorts, and have five white petals which soon fall off, and a great number of white stamina with yellow summits. This flowers in June, and the seeds ripen in August."

As a description, this is specious rather than definitive; yet it comes twenty times nearer being definite than all which had ever been printed about the plant during the 135 years that had intervened between Cornut and Miller. Let us see what this description tells us that may help somewhat toward a placing of the plant. That its roots are fibrous and dark-coloured may assure us that it was not one of our numerous meadow-rues that are yellow-rooted. Its attaining the height of three or four feet is a statement that might be helpful; for, in Canada where this thing came from there are white-stamened kinds that commonly attain that height, and more, and there are others that are exceptionally large plants of their kind if two feet high. That its leaves were those of columbines is of no moment. Most American meadow-rues, and many of those of Europe and of Asia, are columbine-leaved. But when we are informed that the *T. Canadense*, Mill., has leaves that are "grayish" and also "smooth," we are compelled to picture in our minds a *Thalictrum* with glaucescent foliage, that is, if we are instructed as to the terms that were in use in Miller's day and earlier for designating that which we of a later time know as glaucous. There are white-stamened Canadian *Thalictrums* in plenty, the foliage of which is deep-green or dark-green, and one or two that are glaucescent-leaved. We have now the word of Miller that the real *T. Canadense*, involving *T. Cornuti*, Linn., is a plant with light blue-green foliage, and glabrous, at least above. Another very useful item in his account of the plant is, that its flowers are produced in large panicles. This definitely excludes several rather northerly Canadian meadow-rues the leafy stems of which can not be said to end in any panicle at all, but in an umbel of only two or three—sometimes solitary—large white-stamened flowers; yet all these manifestly distinct plants were formerly catalogued as *T. Cornuti*, which, by Miller's testimony, they can not be. And, finally, it is evident by the same authority that the plant as they had it in Europe in the seventeenth century and in the eighteenth was hermaphrodite, for the authority seems to say that stamens and pistils were in all the flowers. Miller's account does not indeed define anything. We can not, in the light of it, enable ourselves to say just what one of the Canadian white-stamened *Thalictrums* it was, though by the same token we can seem to see in the Canadian flora a number of members of that group which can not be referred thereto.