

almost naked, which impelled me to halt and inspect them more closely. There were plenty of clusters of fruit remaining in fair condition from the autumn before. The drupelets were those of the group of *Rhus glabra*; and this was a surprise, because the first glance at the branches had convinced me beyond possibility of doubt that the colony was of the *R. typhina* group; not that they manifested that dense velvety, or rather plushy indument like that of the horns of stags when the horns are newly grown. There are *Rhus typhina* allies, unquestionably such to all who know them, that have no trace of the velvet or plush on their branches at any time. These are conditions of which the botanists who write the descriptive manuals know nothing. The book does not yet exist in which the most fundamental distinctions between these exceedingly common shrubs, those of the *glabra* type and those of the *typhina* type have been given. What the most essential characters of the two groups are, I proceed to state; and first, those marking the *typhina* group. The young branches are *cylindrical*, or *terete*, to use the good botanical term, which means that the cross section is in outline a circle; also the bark of such young branches is of a *deep or dark green*, without trace of bloom or pallor. In every form or phase or distinct species of the *glabra* alliance such young branches are not only *pale or whitish with bloom*, they are never cylindric or terete, but always plainly *angled*, their cross sections never circular, always angular, more or less definitely and acutely so. By such clear and definite notes as these may the botanist out of doors distinguish between these two types of sumach even in mid-winter; and both types are common over an area that embraces almost all of North America east of the Rocky Mountains. And the points of difference here emphasized have not been known to the writers of our manuals sitting in the herbarium, although herbarium specimens exhibit them.

I shall have more to say concerning the sumachs of Western Ontario by and by.

This perhaps more distinctively southwestern part of the great province, as I traversed it from Sarnia near the southern point of Lake Huron to Hamilton on Lake Ontario, and as I have walked some scores of miles of it in pursuit of botanical knowledge, has to me the appearance of what may have been from the first a gently undulating prairie country broken into sections of small extent by many woodland-belted rivers and their numerous lesser tributaries.

Across the prairie looking eastward from Strathroy I noted as at the probable distance of a mile and more a stretch of timber, where I supposed I should find a water-course of some kind, and on the wooded hills above one special desideratum, *Thalictrum*