

VEGETATION IN THE BERMUDAS.—PART. III

PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

By H. B. SMALL.

If after the fall of man any truant flowers of Eden escaped its bounds their seeds must have found a kindly soil in Bermuda. Plants and flowers there attain a daring loveliness which stamps them on the memory of even the transient visitor. The island group may well be called "the Land of the Lily and the Rose" for each of these attains a perfection far beyond the conception of a dweller in the north. The many and beautiful varieties of the garden rose—both bush and standard—bloom in profusion all the year round, and the air is literally laden with their perfume. Bermuda is a botanists' paradise, but how many pluck every striking flower they see, only to toss it carelessly aside, regardless of its loveliness or its brilliancy. The Passion-flower, Narcissus, Geranium, Heliotrope, Verbena, Violet, Wistaria and a Creeper known as *Bougainvillea*, one of the handsomest adjuncts to a wall or verandah that the world produces, are all remarkable for their luxuriance. The *Bougainvillea* was introduced from Gibraltar by Governor Lefroy in 1874, and has now so established itself as to be seen gracing the majority of private buildings.

There are two species of Passion-flower, one remarkable for its blossoms (*Passiflora cærulea*), the peculiar formation of which representing the emblems of Christ's Passion has given rise to the name, the other (*Passiflora minima*), a wild species covering roadside banks and old stone walls in profusion, but the flower of which is far less conspicuous than its congener. Of the Narcissus two species are abundant, one (*N. Tazetta*) bearing a cluster of numerous white flowers with a yellow eye, the other (*N. jonquilla*) with two or three deep yellow fragrant flowers. These plants are abundant on some hillsides along the edge of the cedar groves or beneath the Oleander shade, and in the glades in the valleys. There are two Honeysuckles (*Caprifolium sempervirens*) and (*Lonicera Japonica*), which cover the walls or trail along