

Wheel-shaped. See Rotate.

Whorled. Having flowers or leaves growing in a ring.

Wings. The two side petals of a papilionaceous flower.

Wood. The most solid parts of trunks of trees and shrubs.

Z.

Zool'ogy. The science which treats of animals.

Zo'ophytes. The lowest order of animals, sometimes called animal plants, though considered as wholly belonging to the animal kingdom. They resemble plants in their form, and exhibit very faint marks of sensation.

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.

Mankind in all ages have delighted to personify flowers, to imagine them as possessing moral characters corresponding with their outward appearance;—thus we speak of the modest violet, the humble daisy, the proud tulip, and the flaunting peony. In those nations where the imagination is lively, and leads men to the use of figurative language, flowers are often made to speak the sentiments of the heart, in a manner more delicate and impressive than could be done by words.

Even with us, who are not a people remarkable for brilliancy of fancy, flowers form an interesting medium of communication, and often awaken tender recollections. When our parlours or gardens show us these living witnesses of a friend's kindness or affectionate remembrance, we feel a pleasing emotion steal upon our hearts. A shrub or tree presented us, by a departed friend, is a perennial monument to his memory, more touching to the heart than an inscription on marble.

It is a fact which may ever be noticed, that those who love flowers are social in their tastes, and delight to share their enjoyments with others. In a sordid love of money, we see the reverse of this; here, so far from the wish to communicate to others, the heart seems to become more and more dead to sympathies and benevolence. We should seek to improve our affections and to calm our spirits by such pursuits as seem best calculated to produce this effect. Hence, we may indulge a fondness for flowers, as not only innocent, but favourable to the health of the soul.

Among the ancients, flowers were used in their religious celebrations. Christians, even to this day, decorate their churches with flowers and evergreens in seasons of peculiar solemnity.

In many countries the dead are decked with flowers for their burial, and the tombs are ornamented with garlands and festoons. Thus Mrs. Hemans says:

“Bring flowers, pale flowers, o'er the bier to shed,
A crown for the brow of the early dead!
For this, through its leaves has the white rose burst,
For this in the woods was the violet nurs'd;
Though they smile in vain for what once was ours,
They are love's last gift—bring flowers, pale flowers.”

The bride of almost every nation is adorned with flowers; the rose and orange blossom are among the favourites for this purpose.

The infant loves flowers, and the young child when he first goes into the fields and plucks the luxuriant wild flowers, exhibits a delight which the most costly toys cannot impart.

We will now give a few examples of attaching sentiments to flowers; and should the young reader become so much interested in this, as to wish to pursue the subject, we will recommend him to peruse the article, "Symbolical Language of Flowers," in the Familiar Lectures on Botany, and the more full explanation is to be met in "Flora's Dictionary," and "Flora's Interpreter."

Acacia, Friendship.
Acanthus, Indissoluble ties.
Aconitum, (Monk's-hood,) Deceit.
Amaranthus, Unchanging.
Amaryllis, Coquetry.
Anemone, Frailty.
Aram, (Wild-turnip,) Ferocity.
Aster, Beauty in retirement.
Asclepias, (Milk-weed,) Hope.
Bachelor's button, Hope, even in misery.
Balm, How sweet is social intercourse!
Broom, Humility.
Broom-corn, Industry.
Balsamine, (Lady's slipper of the garden,) Impatience.
Bay, I change but in death.
Box, Constancy.
Bell-flower, Gratitude.
Cardinal flower, High station does not confer happiness.
China aster, I return your affection.
Chrysanthemum, (White,) Truth needs no protestations.
Clematis, (Virgin's bower,) Mental excellence.
Cock's-comb, Foppery, Affectation.
Convolvulus, Uncertainty.
Crown imperial, Great but not good.
Chamomile, Blooming in sorrow.
Carnation, Disdain.
Daisy, Unconscious beauty.
Dandelion, Smiling on all.
Heart's-ease, (Garden violet,) Forget-me-not.
Hollyhock, Ambition.
Honeysuckle, Fidelity.
Houstonia, Innocence.
Hydrangea, Boastful.
Jasmine, Gentle.
Iris, A messenger of joy.
Larkspur, Inconstant.
Lily, (White,) Purity.
Lily of the Valley, Delicacy.
Marrigold, Cruelly.
Mirabilis, (Four o'clock,) Timidity.
Mignonette, Beauty in the mind rather than the person.
Mock Orange, (*Philadelphus*,) Counterfeit.

Myrtle, Love.
Narcissus, Selfishness.
Olive, Peace.
Orange flowers, A bridal.
Parsley, Useful knowledge.
Passion flower, Devotion.
Pink, single, A stranger to art.
Pink, variegated, Refusal.
Peony, Ostentation.
Poppy, Forgetfulness.
Rosemary, Remembrance.
Rose-trail, A confession.
Rose, wild, Simplicity.
Rose, cinnamon, Without pretention.
Sage, Domestic virtues.
Snow-drop, I am not a summer friend.
Strawberry, A pledge of happiness.
Sweet William, Artful.
Sweet pea, Departure.
Tulip, Vanity.
Weeping willow, Forsaken.

The following lines, written on seeing a splendid collection of Water Lilies on the shores of Saratoga Lake, may convey to the young reader a useful moral.

Here on this gently sloping bank
 Of mossy flowers, I love to lie;
 While round, the vernal grass so rank,
 Of green, reflects the richest eye.
 The placid lake of silver sheen,
 Fans with soft breath my burning cheek,
 While from its bosom all serene,
 Fresh odours rise from blossoms meek.

Sweet, modest plants, condemned to dwell
 In solitude and lonely shade;
 Oh, do you not sometimes rebel,
 That thus obscure your lot is made?
 But come with me to fairy bowers,
 Deck'd by the tasteful hand of art;
 And ye shall know of brighter hours,
 And share the pleasures of my heart.

Nymphæa* hears my earnest plea,
 Meek, white-robed lily of the lake;
 And wafting forth a sigh to me,
 The unambitious flowret spake.
 Mortal, forbear! thou knowest not
 How idle is thy foolish dream;—
 Nor is our lowly, humble lot,
 Sad as thy erring heart may deem.

* The White water-lily.

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.

Round us the silver trout do glide.
 B. the zephyrs dance amidst our bowers,
 And with us insects gay abide,
 Who call us sweetest of the flowers.
 We make these solitudes rejoice,
 Adorn and bless our parent wave;
 And should it be her children's choice
 To leave her, but—to find a grave?

We should not be in bowers of art,
 Blooming and fresh as we are here -
 Soon would our loveliness depart
 And wither'd things we should appear.
 See yellow Nappar* now so gay,
 Blue Pontederat† fresh and fair,
 Oh, they would droop the very day,
 Should take them from their natal air!

And I, she said, in accents sweet,
 Whose robe of plain and simple white
 Is for these shades a garment meet -
 I could not bide the glaring light,
 Which gaudy tulips love so well -
 Oh grant me, Heav'n my little day
 Untouch'd by pride may pass away!

* The Yellow water-lily
 † A beautiful aquatic flower with blossoms thickly crowded upon a spike; the
 tower intermixed with the White and Yellow lilies, produces a fine effect



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