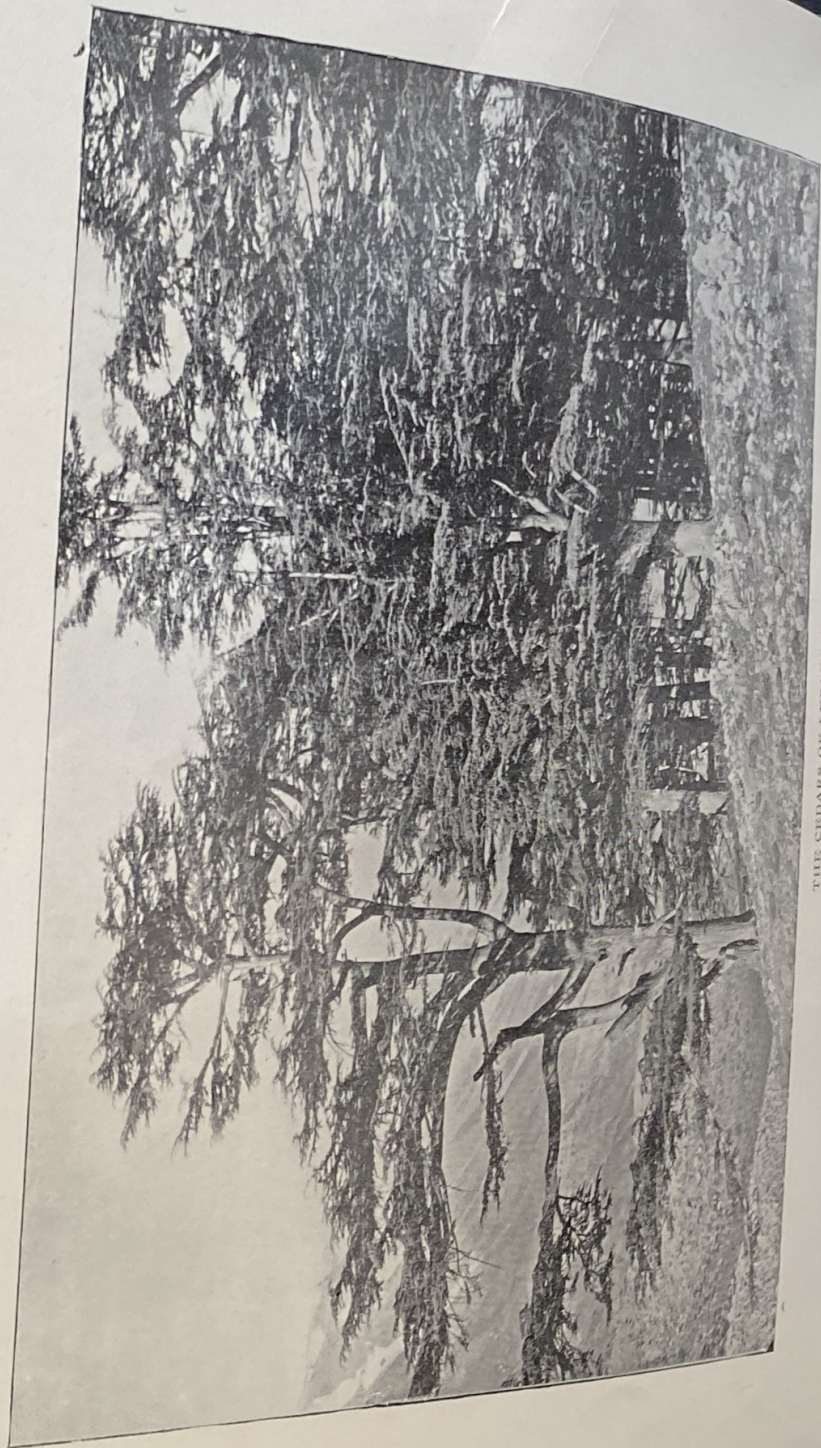


WILD FLOWERS OF PALESTINE



“CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY GROW:
THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO THEY SPIN:
AND YET I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY
WAS NOT ARRAYED LIKE ONE OF THESE.” MATTHEW-VI 28-29





THE CEDARS OF LEBANON.

Wild Flowers

from the Holy Land.

COLLECTED IN PALESTINE BY

REV. HARVEY B. GREENE, B. D.

*"Your voiceless lips, O flowers, are living preachers,
Each cup a pulpit and each leaf a book."*

HORACE SMITH.

NEW YORK:
THE CHRISTIAN HERALD,
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1895.

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Contents

OF

The Palestine Floral Album.

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON	Frontispiece.
INTRODUCTION—"A Divine Bouquet,"	
REV. T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D. D.	
THE FLORA OF PALESTINE	REV. H. B. GREENE.
CERTIFICATE OF HON. E. S. WALLACE, U. S. Consul at Jerusalem.	
COMMENDATORY	HON. SELAH MERRILL, D. D., LL. D.
WILD FLOWERS OF THE CHRIST-LAND . . .	GEO. H. SANDISON.
SIXTEEN CARTONS OF WILD FLOWERS.	
Collected, preserved and mounted specially for this work.	

Illustrations.

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON.
THE SYRIAN CYPRESS.
THE "SPINA CHRISTI," OR "TREE OF THE THORNY CROWN."
THE JERICHO SYCAMORE.
THE BALM TREE.
THE OLIVE TREE.
THE "PASSION TREE" IN GETHSEMANE.
THE PALM TREE.

United States Consulate
at
Jerusalem, Palestine

April 22, 1895.

I hereby certify from personal knowledge that Rev.
H. B. Greene has been in Palestine for several months,
and that during this time he has been making large col-
lections of flowers of the Holy Land.



Edwin S. Wallace
U. S. Consul

A Divine Bouquet.

YOU have all seen maps of Palestine, and heard sermons about Palestine, and sung hymns about Palestine, and longed for the opportunity of seeing Palestine, but this may be the first time you have ever held a part of Palestine in your hand. These are not pictures of flowers: any engraver or painter can give you them, but these were wrought, and spun, and colored by the hand of God. The ancestors of these flowers were touched by Moses and Solomon, and Paul and Christ. Through the most of the year the Holy Land is all ablush with floral opulence. You find all the royal family of flowers there, some that you supposed indigenous to the far North, and others indigenous to the far South—the daisy and hyacinth, crocus and anemone, tulip and water-lily, geranium and ranunculus, mignonette and sweet marjoram. In the collection at Beyrout you may see eighteen hundred kinds of Holy Land flowers: while among trees are the oak of frozen climes, and the tamarisk of the tropics, walnut and willow, ivy and hawthorn, ash and elder, pine and sycamore.

Oh, the flowers! They are the angels of the grass. They all have voices. When the clouds speak, they thunder; when the whirlwinds speak, they shriek; when the cataracts speak, they roar: but when the flowers speak, they always whisper. Take this floral album to some quiet place and listen. Some of the flowers have different names now from those with which they were baptized in Bible times, but the change of name has not changed their beauty or aroma or suggestiveness. THE CHRISTIAN HERALD cannot do a lovelier thing than to put this divine bouquet into the hands of its friends and patrons. The flower marks the exact line between the material world and the spiritual world. Heaven and earth meet at the white pillar of the calla-lily.

T. De Witt Talmage

Commendatory.

BY HON. SELAH MERRILL, D. D., LL. D.

PALESTINE is a land of ruins, but the flowers of its fields are as beautiful as when they were looked upon by the Master Himself; and it was a happy thought of Rev. Mr. Greene to arrange in this attractive form these precious souvenirs of the home-land of Christ. This gentleman has made at different times two journeys to the Holy Land, covering not less than thirty thousand miles of travel, solely for the purpose of studying its floral wealth and of gathering specimens by which the variety and beauty of that wealth could be illustrated. This labor necessitated living in the fields, and the hardship and exposure involved were by no means slight. The Christian world always appreciates any effort that is made to bring it nearer to its divine Lord, and on this account the present volume will be welcomed and highly prized. In our time men are seeking in many ways to illustrate the Bible—by a study of races, languages, monuments and buried treasures, all of which are commendable; but the department which Mr. Greene has chosen is no less important than the others, while it appeals to a different side of our nature. Amid the desolation of that land, the flowers of Palestine are almost the only objects which symbolize to us the living Christ; they remind us of His spirit which, we believe, is to overcome all discord and sin and fill the world with heavenly peace.

Andover, Mass., 1895.

Selah Merrill

The Flora of Palestine.

PALESTINE, although in its area so small, contains within its borders three distinct regions, each having its own peculiar soil, climate and flora.

The Plain district of the west, extending from the sea to the hills of Judea, and from Mt. Carmel to the desert, is the granary of the country, and in the spring, with its waving wheat and barley, looks like a sea of green. Being warmer than the hill country, oranges and date palms abound, and it is not uncommon to see the cotton plant cultivated. The northern part of the plain (the Sharon of the Bible) not being so fertile, is left open to the Bedouins with their flocks and herds: it is here that the flowers most abound, coloring the landscape with their changing hue. Among the oaks that crown a few low hills I found many beautiful orchids and squills, in the plain the tulip and anemone deserve notice, by the streams the oleander and myrtle, while about every village the olive tree abounds.

In the hill country of Judea, Samaria and Galilee, where the thermometer often falls below freezing and snow falls about every winter, there is quite a different flora. The orange and palm almost disappear, the fig and olive being the common tree about the villages. On the hills the growth of trees is very stunted, scrub oak, wild olive, dry and thorny underwood, with numerous aromatic shrubs and herbs, the Poterium, several varieties of sage, the spring astrogalve being common. But the small and rapidly withering spring plants that abound everywhere are most seen and admired by pilgrims. One cannot help remarking at the scarlet as the floral procession marches rapidly past. The Anemone-Coronaria (the lily of Christ's parable) gives a scarlet hue to many an open place; only to be followed by the Buttercup (*Ranunculus*

Asiaticus), as scarlet and larger than the Anemone. Before the Buttercup fades the common field Poppy (*Papaver Rhæas*) continues the color. At the same time are two smaller blossoms of brilliant scarlet, Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis Palæstina*), growing mostly about the villages, and the Passion Everlasting (*Hetichrysum Sanguineum*) growing only among the thorny underbrush of the Nile. Wherever a small tract of land is untouched by the plow these flowers abound and assume during the short spring various colors, white, scarlet, yellow, blue, pink and mixed. The beautiful little grasses ought also to be mentioned. All this beauty gives to the country for about three months the rare freshness that makes it a land of flowers, "flowing with milk and honey." With April the latter rains cease, the sun mounts higher in the heavens, causing the plants to wither, the grass to dry, and for the rest of the year the whole land looks dry and desert like.

One more region, the Jordan Valley, all of which lies below the sea level. Here is a hot and winterless climate, giving rise to a vegetation of remarkable character, somewhat like that of Egypt. A region now barren only because the water nature provides goes to waste. I noticed along the banks of the Jordan the tamarisk, willow and poplar trees. At Jericho still grow the sycamore and the palm. The Spina Christi is here cut down and used as hedges. The Balm offers its healing to weary pilgrims. In the valley grows the 'Oshr-Asclepias Procera, a plant characteristic of the Sahara, the blood-red Parasitic *Loranthus* and the genuine African *Papyrus Antiquorum*.

There is no month when wild-flowers cannot be found in some part of the Holy Land. Dr. Tristram in his careful catalogue gives fourteen hundred species, affording a rich and interesting field for the botanist.

H. B. Greene.

Chelmsford, Mass.

The Wild Flowers of the Christ-Land.

The Floral Procession.



LIKE the soft shadow of a cloud that lingers but a brief moment, the flowers of Palestine come and go, but with a glory so swift that it dazzles and bewilders one who for the first time observes this peculiarity of the Syrian landscape. This floral procession, so brilliant and yet so rapid in its many-hued changes, is found in its highest perfection in the Holy Land. There the wild flowers spring up, as it were, in a night; they wave their countless blossoms, diffuse a rich fragrance across field and plain, and then, almost while you gaze in wonder and admiration at the lovely sight, they wither and die. As if by enchantment, others arise to take their places, and the field or vale or hillside that only a few days ago was a sea of waving yellow, may to-morrow be a mass of nodding blue, white or vivid scarlet, according to the order of the floral procession and the season of the year. In our own land, a majority of the



PASSION EVERLASTING.
(*Helichrysum Sanguineum*).



MUSTARD (showing seed pods).
(*Sinapis arvensis*).



CYCLAMEN.
(*Cyclamen Aleppicum*).



RED LENTIL.
(*Ercum Lens*).



LILY OF THE FIELD.
(*Anemone Coronaria*).



GRASS.
(Gramineæ).



CROWN FLOWER.
(*Artedia Squamata*).



GOLDEN CLOVER.
(*Trigonella Hierosolymitana*).



PHEASANT'S EYE.
(*Adonis Palaestina*).



FLAX (Linen).
(*Linum pubescens*).



CUMMIN (Very Like).
(*Torilis trichosperma*).



MAIDENHAIR FERN.
(*Adiantum pedatum*).



PEA OR BEAN.
(*Vicia hybrida*).



MIGNONETTE (Hyssop).
(*Reseda alba*).



PUFF BALL.
(*Lagortia cumixoides*).

WILD FLOWERS OF PALESTINE.



*H, beauteous flowers of Palestina, flinging
Sweet, subtle odors round you everywhere ;
Ye come like holy angels, with you bringing
Bright memories of that sacred land, so fair.*

*Where blooms the Rose of Sharon, and resplendent
Judæan lilies glow and scintillate—
Shed o'er the earth a lustre all transcendent,
Reign proudly in the grandeur of their state.*

*And, from the hallowed scenes of sacred story,
The words of Christ float on the perfumed breeze,
"E'en Solomon in all his wondrous glory,
Was not arrayed in splendor such as these."*

*We love to see you, as with glorious lustre,
All interwreathed and intertwined you shine,
For flowers like these, perchance, adorned the pathway
Of Footsteps sinless, holy, and divine.*

CHRISTINA B. FREEMAN.

WILD FLOWERS OF PALESTINE.