

workers in botany, and a genus to the masters, but to have one man's name appended to twenty or thirty species, however distinguished he may be as a collector, gets to be amusing. And to dedicate a beautiful plant to Tom, Dick or Harry, simply because he happens to find a new species, does not tend to make botanical names a special honor to those who deserve them. Just reel over the names of new species described by the masters for the past few years. It will be largely a list of proper names. The unfortunate part of it is, that the leaders in botany are helpless in the matter. They must have the plants to describe, must keep on the good side of their diligent correspondents, but they can never do this without naming every other species after the collector. A man will risk breaking his neck for a plant that may bear his name when it comes to be described. Collectors should be more modest in their claims and be content with one or two species, allowing the rest they discover to be named something that will give some idea of the plant. Surely, something descriptive of the species can always be found and used for the specific name. Of course, by descriptive names are not meant such as have delighted our eyes in the last few numbers of the American Journal of Science and Arts, where sesquipedalian words, made up of names of elements and half the letters of the Greek alphabet, and stretching clear across a broad page, describe some obscure chemical compound that the weight of such a name could grind to powder. Nor do we want such names as that poor little new double white Violet bears among gardeners, namely, *Viola odorata alba fragrantissima plena*. But some simple descriptive adjective added to the generic name would mean something to every one and would always be applicable.—N.

A KANSAS CLEMATIS.—In the June number of the GAZETTE, Mr. Matthew H. Panton, of Junction City, says he found *Clematis ochroleuca* in Cloud county. In 1874, Louis Watson, M. D., of Ellis, Kansas, sent me a *Clematis* which I called *C. ochroleuca*, as it agreed better with the description under that name than with any other which I had. I learned, however, from Dr. Watson that it was not *C. ochroleuca*, but *C. Fremontii*. In "Contributions to American Botany, by Sereno Watson, issued April, 1875," is the following description of *C. Fremontii* as a new plant:

"Stem stout, erect, clustered, 6-12 inches high, leafy and usually branched, more or less villous-tomentose, especially at the nodes; leaves simple, 3-4 pairs, coriaceous and with the veinlets conspicuously reticulated, sparingly villous, sessile, broadly ovate, entire or few-toothed, 2-4 inches long; flowers terminal, nodding, the thick purple sepals an inch long, narrowly lanceolate, tomentose upon the margin, recurved at the tip, the peduncles becoming erect in fruit; akenes silky, 3-4 lines long, the tails less than an inch long, naked above, silky at base. This well marked species, the western representative of *C. ochroleuca*, was first collected by Fremont (n. 194) on his second expedition, but without note of the locality. It was re-discovered during the past season by Louis Watson, M. D., in the neighborhood of Ellis, Kansas."

This is probably what Mr. Panton has found.—J. H. CARRUTH, *Lawrence, Kansas, June 19th, 1877.*

SOME BOTANICAL NOTES FROM KANSAS.—The spring season in Central Kansas opens very irregularly. I have seen the prairies covered with the white and blue blossoms of *Anemone Caroliniana*, large patches of *Androsace occidentalis*, and *Draba Caroliniana*, as early as the 3d or 4th of April, and I once gathered a peculiar form of *Erythronium albidum*, March 27th, having narrow leaves, neither spotted nor blotched, their petioles a reddish color, the sepals neither reflexed nor spreading, but each having a bright yellow spot at the base inside. In other years I have found nearly all of the above making their first appearance about three weeks or a month later. In April, *Anemone Caroliniana* is the most conspicuous and abundant of our prairie flowers, appearing almost as soon as the most frost is out of the ground, and is closely followed by

Lithospermum longiflorum, *L. hirtum*, *Astragalus caryocarpus*, *Oxytropis Lambertii*, *Psoralea esculenta*, *Ceanothus Americanus*, *Houstonia angustifolia*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Baptisia australis*, and *B. leucophaea*. The Dandelion of the East is compensated for by *Troximon cuspidatum*. Early in June the prairies are covered with *Psoralea argophylla*, *Pentstemon Digitalis*, *P. pubescens*, *P. grandiflorus*; while the rocky sides and edges of the bluffs are made beautiful by the large blossoms of *Oenothera Missouriensis*, *O. serrulata* and the fragrant pink blossoms of the sensitive plant, *Schrankia uncinata*. The river bottoms are richly clothed with the large white flowers of *Oenothera speciosa*, the yellow *O. serrulata* and *O. sinuata*, the bright blue *Tradescantia Virginia*, the white *Callirhoe alcockii*, and a *Callirhoe* which I cannot name, with prostrate stems and almost blood-red flowers, growing in patches, *Delphinium azureum* with white flowers, and later, about the beginning of July, *Argemone Mexicana* with large white flowers two inches across. One coming from northern Illinois or Iowa would be much disappointed with the herbal flora of our woodlands. It would be vain to look for the different species of *Dicentra*, *Aquilegia*, *Claytonia*, *Castilleja*, *Collinsia*, *Hydrophyllum*, *Trillium*, etc., for we have none of those. Their place is poorly supplied by *Ellisia Nyctelea*, *Viola cucullata*, *Ranunculus abortivus*, *Oxybaphus ucytagineus* and *Campylopus Americana*. Although this has been called a treeless country, we have a pretty fair variety of forest trees mostly confined to the streams, some of which I will mention. They are *Salix nigra*, *Populus monilifera*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Gymnocladus Canadensis*, *Tilia Americana*, *Cercis Canadensis*, *Juglans nigra*, *Carya amara*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Ulmus fulva*, *Ulmus Americana*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus prinoides*, *Fraxinus Americana*, *Neyundo aceroides*. The undergrowth is mostly composed of *Cornus stolonifera* and *Symphoricarpos vulgaris*.—MATTHEW H. PANTON, Junction City, Kansas.

In the last Naturalists' Advertiser is the prospectus of an important work on Ferns. S. E. Cassino is about to publish, in parts, a work on ferns, the text by Prof. D. C. Eaton, and illustrations by Mr. James H. Emerton. The great cost of suitable plates has, until now, hindered publishers from so large an undertaking, but Mr. Cassino has greater faith in the botanical public, and proposes to make the attempt. The parts will be sold at \$1.00 each, and will appear at intervals of about three months. Each part will contain three elegant quarto plates, colored, and in the course of the publication every species known to inhabit the United States will be figured. We hope that Mr. Cassino will be encouraged in this undertaking by all botanists, for the work is a good one, and the parts are surely very cheap.

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