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### **The language and poetry of flowers**

**London, 1877**

The Amaranth.

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THE FLOWERING ALMOND. (*Hope.*)

MARK well the Flowering Almonds in the wood ;  
 If odorous blooms the beamy branches load,  
 The glebe will answer to the sylvan reign ;  
 Great heats will follow and large crops of grain.  
 But if a wood of leaves o'ershade the tree,  
 Such and so barren will the harvest be ;  
 In vain the hind will vex the threshing-floor,  
 For empty chaff and straw will be thy store.

*Dryden's "Virgil."*

THE AMARANTH. (*Immortality.*)

To the ground  
 With solemn adoration down they cast  
 Their crowns inwove with Amarant and gold,—  
 Immortal Amarant, a flower which once  
 In Paradise, fast by the tree of life,  
 Began to bloom ; but soon for man's offence  
 To heaven removed, where first it grew, there grows,  
 And flowers aloft, shading the fount of life,  
 And where the river of bliss through midst of Heaven  
 Rolls o'er Elysian flowers her amber stream ;  
 With these, that never fade, the spirits elect  
 Bind their resplendent locks enwreathed with beams,  
 Now in loose garlands thick thrown off ; the bright  
 Pavement, that like a sea of jasper shone,  
 Empurpled with celestial roses, smiled.

*Milton.*

THE ANEMONE. (*Expectation.*)

THERE, thickly strewn in woodland bowers,  
 Anemones their stars unfold ;