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

**London, 1877**

An Early Blossom.

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## AN EARLY BLOSSOM.

SWEET flower ! that, peeping from thy russet stem  
 Unfoldest timidly (for in strange sort  
 This dark, frieze-coated, hoarse, teeth-chattering month  
 Hath borrowed Zephyr's voice, and gazed upon thee  
 With blue voluptuous eye), alas, poor flower !  
 These are but the flatteries of the faithless year.  
 Perchance, escaped its unknown polar cave,  
 Ev'n now the keen north-east is on its way. *Coleridge.*

## SPRING BLOSSOMS.

MINDFUL of disaster past,  
 And shrinking at the northern blast,  
 The sleety storm returning still,  
 The morning hoar, the evening chill,  
 Reluctant comes the timid Spring :  
 Scarce a bee, with airy ring,  
 Murmurs the blossomed boughs around  
 That clothe the garden's southern bound :  
 Scarce the hardy primrose peeps  
 From the dark dell's entangled steeps :  
 O'er the field of waving broom  
 Slowly shoots the golden bloom :  
 And but by fits the furze-clad dale  
 Tinctures the transitory gale.  
 Scant along the ridgy land  
 The beans their newborn ranks expand ;  
 The fresh-turned soil, with tender blades,  
 Thinly the sprouting barley shades ;  
 Fringing the forest's devious edge  
 Half-robed appears the hawthorn hedge ;  
 Or to the distant eye displays,  
 Weakly green, its budding sprays. *Warton.*