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The language and poetry of flowers

London, 1877

The Linden Tree.

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THE POETRY OF FLOWERS.

O Flower-de-luce, bloom on, and let the river Linger to kiss thy feet ;—

O flower of song, bloom on, and make for ever The world more fair and sweet.

Longfellow.

THE LINDEN TREE.

THERE'S a song for thee—of the Linden Tree! A song of the silken lime! There is no other tree so pleaseth me, No other so fit for rhyme.

When I was a boy, it was all my joyTo rest in its scented shade,When the sun was high, and the river nighA musical murmur made :

When, floating along like a winged song, The traveller-bee would stop,

And choose for his bower the lime-tree flower, And drink—to the last sweet drop.

When the evening star stole forth, afar, And the gnats flew round and round,I sought for a rhyme, beneath the lime, Or dreamed on the grassy ground.

Ah !—years have fled ; and the Linden, dead, Is a brand on the cottier's floor ;And the river creeps through its slimy deeps, And youth—is a thought of yore !

Yet—they live again, in the dreamer's brain : As deeds of love and wrong,Which pass with a sigh, and seem to die, Survive in the poet's song.

Barry Cornwall.

