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The language and poetry of flowers

London, 1877

Woodland Fern.

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THE WINTER-TREE (LAURUSTINUS).

FAIR tree of winter ! fresh and flowering,
When all around is dead and dry ;
Whose ruby buds, though storms are luring,
Spread their white blossoms to the sky.
Green are thy leaves, more purely green
Through every changing period seen ;
And when the gaudy months are past,
Thy loveliest season is the last.
Be thou an emblem—thus unfolding
The history of that maiden's mind,
Whose eye, these humble lines beholding,
In them her future lot may find :
Through life's mutations may she be
A modest evergreen like thee :
Though bless'd in youth, in age more bless'd,
Still be her latest days the best.

J. Montgomery.

WOODLAND FERN.

THAT tall fern,
So stately, of the queen Osmunda named ;
Plant lovelier, in its own retired abode
On Grasmere's beach, then Naiad by the side
Of Grecian brook, or Lady of the Mere,
Sole-sitting by the shores of old romance.

Wordsworth.

