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

**London, 1877**

Osmunda Fern.

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To Scotland's heaths ; or those that crossed the sea  
 And drew their sounding bows at Azincour,  
 Perhaps at earlier Crecy, or Poitiers.  
 Of vast circumference and gloom profound  
 This solitary Tree ! a living thing  
 Produced too slowly ever to decay ;  
 Of form and aspect too magnificent  
 To be destroyed. But worthier still of note  
 Are those fraternal Four of Borrowdale,  
 Joined in one solemn and capacious grove ;  
 Huge trunks ! and each particular trunk a growth  
 Of intertwined fibres serpentine  
 Up-coiling, and inveterately convolved ;  
 Nor uninformed with Phantasy and looks  
 That threaten the profane ;—a pillared shade,  
 Upon whose grassless floor of red-brown hue,  
 By sheddings from the pining umbrage tinged  
 Perennially.

*Wordsworth.*

OSMUNDA 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.

