

DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Botanical Walks round Derby.

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THE rambles which I have now to describe were taken by me whilst residing in Derby, from January to August, 1893. The places visited by me during these months were all familiar to me when living in this town during the years 1871-1879, when I was Curate of Trinity Church, with the exception of Muggington and Gunn's Hills, mentioned at length further on. They were again visited by me during the above-mentioned months, in order to ascertain what changes had taken place in the Botany of those districts during the fifteen years that had elapsed since I had resided in Derby, and also to ascertain if any plants had been overlooked by me in my former visits.

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BREADSALL AND BREADSALL MOOR were always favourite hunting grounds with me when I formerly resided in Derby, especially as I then frequently enjoyed the companionship and hospitality of my friend, the late Mr. Whittaker; therefore, during my recent stay in this town I paid these places a couple of visits, but without the companionship of my friend, on account of his age and infirmities. The only plant worthy of notice that I saw on my first visit, in April, 1894, was the hairy variety of *Pyrus Malus* (Linn.), the variety *mitis* (Wallr.)—the specimen exhibited shows the hairy petioles; whilst I saw the Common Water-cress, *Nasturtium officinale* (R. Br.), in fair abundance near Breadsall Priory. In the summer I met with *Ulex Gallii* (Planch), a plant which the older Botanists used to confound with the Dwarf Furze, *Ulex nanus*; *Rubus Koehleri* (Weihe), var. *pallidus* (Bab.), one of our commonest Brambles, which ascends to one thousand feet or more near Buxton; *Rubus corylifolius*, var. *sublustris* (Lees), also a Buxton Bramble, and *Sonchus arvensis* (Linn.), the Field Sow-thistle; whilst on the Mansfield Road, between Morley and Derby, I met with the Hawkweed *Picris*, *Picris hieracioides* (Linn.), which I do not remember having met with before on this road.

The old Clay Pits on Breadsall Moor are well worth a visit, as the Water Violet, *Hottonia palustris* (Linn.), and the variety *strigulosa* (Reichb.) of *Myosotis palustris*, grow there. Besides which, there is a Moss to be found there which, I believe, does not grow in any other place in Derbyshire; at least, it has not been recorded from any other place, *Hypnum cordifolium* (Hedw.). Here also I was fortunate enough to find *Sphagnum squarrosum* (Pers.) in fruit, and that moss had not been previously met with in this condition in the county.

On May-day I started for a walk to Ireton and Duffield, as I wanted to ascertain if *Narcissus Poetieus* (Linn.) was still growing near the keeper's cottage at the former place. This I found to be the case, although the plant was not then in flower. Thence I proceeded over the hill towards Duffield, and nearly at the crest of it I came upon the Common Hawthorn, *Cratægus Oxyacantha*

(*Linn.*) *var. monogyna* (*Jacq.*), the Holly, *Ilex aquifolium* (*Linn.*), and the Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Linn.*), in flower, a sight which I had not before seen on this particular day. Near these trees I met with the glabrous variety of the Wild Crab, *Pyrus malus* (*Linn.*) *var. acerba*, *DC.*, and a little way down the hill in the direction of Duffield, the Bitter Cress, with its large pink stamens, *Cardamine amara* (*Linn.*).

Early in the following month, June, I walked over to Markeaton to see a former member of the congregation of Trinity Church, and hoped that, as I had not examined that part of Derbyshire, I might meet with some plants worth mentioning ; but in this I was disappointed. There were only three that I thought worth while taking specimens of—the White Willow, *Salix alba* (*Linn.*), the Barren Brome Grass, *Bromus sterilis* (*Linn.*), and the Marsh Horsetail, *Equisetum palustre* (*Linn.*).

Another place which I visited on this side of Derby, which I mention here, though my visit to it took place in August, was Muggington. On this occasion I had as my companion the Rev. R. Feilden, Vicar of this parish, whose guest I was. He took me in the first place to Gunn's Hills, where I met with several interesting plants, such as *Rubus fissus* (*Lindl.*), an erect Bramble, with septennate leaves and small prickles. I was the more glad to meet with this Bramble, as I had not before seen it in the county, and had only heard of it as growing in Osmaston Park, near Ashbourne. Another Bramble I was glad to see was *R. Sprenglii* (*Weihe*), which Dr. Focke, of Bremen, named for me, and this Bramble I had not previously met with in the county. Other plants seen by me in this wood were the White Climbing Fumitory, *Corydalis claviculata* (*D.C.*), the Perfoliate St. John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum* (*Linn.*), the Square-stalked St. John's Wort, *H. quadratum* (*Stokes*), *Ulex Gallii* (*Planch.*), the Rose Bay, *Epilobium angustifolium* (*Linn.*), the variety *intermedia* (*Gilib.*) of *Plantago major* (*Linn.*), a much smaller plant than the type, and with arcuate ascending scapes ; the Wood Cud-weed, *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (*Linn.*), *Hieracium boreale*, (*Linn.*), the Giant Wall Flower, *Campanula latifolia* (*Linn.*), *Rumex sanguineus*

(*Linn.*), *var. viridis* (*Sibth.*), the Greater Skull Cap, *Scutellaria galericulata* (*Linn.*), and the Great Horse-tail, *Equisetum maximum* (*Linn.*), a plant which I had not before seen in the county. In or near the village of Muggington I came upon the following plants: The Traveller's Joy, *Clematis Vitalba* (*Linn.*), a plant not before met with in Derbyshire, but here probably a garden escape; *Rubus rusticanus* (*Merc.*), a well-marked species, easily recognisable by the narrow leaflets of the barren stems, which are densely felted; *Stachys ambigua* (*Linn.*), the Common Hop, *Humulus Lupulus* (*Linn.*), the White Willow, *Salix alba* (*Linn.*), and the Rough Brome Grass, *Bromus asper* (*Murr.*).

On the opposite side of Derby I visited several localities where in former years I had met with various plants, in the hope of seeing these again, and of discovering others which I had not previously seen. Early in April, on going to the Nottingham Road Cemetery by a path across the fields which I had not formerly known, my attention was drawn to an old Osier-bed, and as I was anxious to ascertain if a Willow was growing there which I had seen in Miller's Dale, *Salix undulata* (*Ghrh.*), I made my way to this place, and found a Willow in flower which I had not before seen in South Derbyshire. When I had obtained the leaves of it in July its species could be determined, and it turned out to be *Salix rubra* (*Huds.*), *var. Forbyana* (*Smith*), a shrub which, I believe, is extensively cultivated for basket-making. The canal-side from the Cemetery to Borrowash affords rich hunting ground. Here in July may be found the Flowering Rush, *Butomus umbellatus* (*Linn.*), with its purple flowers, which, after all, is not a rush, and the Arrow Head, *Sagittaria saggitifolia* (*Linn.*), but these I did not see on this visit. But the plants which I did see were: one of the Water Cresses, which grows abundantly both here and on the banks of the River Derwent, *Nasturtium amphibium* (*R. Br.*), Withering's Bed Straw, *Galium palustre* (*L.*), *var. Witheringii* (*Sm.*), the leaves of which have hooked bristles, the Hairy Hawk-bit, *Leontodon hispidus* (*Linn.*), the Goat's Beard, *Tragopogon pratensis* (*Linn.*), *var. minus* (*Mill.*),

Veronica persica (Poir), a plant now naturalised in our country; the following Pondweeds, the Crisped, the Perfoliate, the Grass-wrack, and the Fennel-leaved, *Potamogeton crispus* (Linn.), *P. perfoliatus* (Linn.), *P. zosteræfolius* (Schum), *P. pectinatus* (Linn.). Of Sedges I only noticed the Great Sedge, *Carex vulpina* (Linn.), and the only grass I gathered was *Phalaris arundinacea* (Linn.).

Here must come in my visit to Stanton-by-Dale and Dale Abbey Woods, though it took place some days previous to the excursion mentioned above. On this occasion I was the guest of the Rev. W. Fox, Rector of Stanton, who took me over ground which I had not previously traversed, between his house and Dale Abbey. We had not gone very far on our road when I noticed a pond full of aquatic plants, amongst which I found the pretty *Ranunculus circinatus* (Sibth.), with its half whorled leaves, and *Potamogeton crispus* (Linn.). Close by in a hedge I spied the Purging Buckthorn, *Rhamnus catharticus* (Linn.), and not far from this the Maple, *Acer campestre* (Linn.). In the fields through which we passed the Dyer's Weed, *Genista tinctoria* (Linn.), was growing in fair abundance; whilst in the wood I was very glad to find that the Toothwort, *Lathræa Squamaria* (Linn.), was still to be seen. But I feel that any account of my visit to this interesting place would be incomplete without some mention of the Abbey ruins and the old Church. This edifice I had not before visited, and therefore had no idea of its quaint interior, and of the monument to the late Earl Stanhope, which is, I suppose, unique in England, as he is described upon it as Lay-Bishop of Dale, a title which is unknown in the Church of England, and which originated in a misunderstanding of what he used to call himself. This Church is well worth a visit, as it is a most peculiar one, both on account of its small size and the arrangement of the pews in it.

Turning now our backs, metaphorically speaking, upon Stanton and Dale, let us now visit Chellaston, Swarkestone, and the other Stanton that is near Derby—Stanton-by-Bridge. These places I visited twice during the summer of 1893, as I was anxious to see

if the plants that I had gathered there in previous years were still living in the old habitats, and this I found to be the case. But besides finding these I lighted upon some that had not been recorded as growing in this part of Derbyshire, such as *Ranunculus fluitans* (Linn.), *Rosa tomentosa* (Sm.), with its hairy and compound-serrate leaflets, the Black Poplar, *Populus nigra* (Linn.), *Trisetum flavescens* (Beauv), evidently here a cultivated grass, *Catabrosa aquatica* (Beauv), which I found in a ditch, all of which I met with at Swarkestone. Then between Chellaston and Swarkestone, or at Chellaston, I noticed the following: the Common Watercress, *Nasturtium officinale* (R. Br.), the Creeping Scorpion Grass, *Myosotis repens* (D. Don.), and the Water Knotwort, *Scrophularia aquatica* (Linn.), *Hordeum pratense* (Huds.), a grass that I had not previously gathered in the county, *Leontodon hirtus* (Linn.), another plant not previously seen by me in these parts, the Lamb's Tongue, *Plantago media* (Linn.), a common plant in the Limestone Districts, as is also *Picris hieracioides* (Linn.), the Hawkweed-picris. Passing over Swarkestone Bridge, at Stanton I came upon a Bramble, near an old quarry, which I was much delighted to meet with, *Rubus thyrsoides* (Wimm), the discovery of which, both here and at Repton, enabled the Rev. W. Moyle Rogers, our present authority upon this genus, to settle the point whether this plant was growing in Derbyshire. The white felt underneath the leaves, and the irregular and jagged serration of the margin of the leaves should be noticed. *R. rusticanus* (Merc.), a Bramble related to the one just mentioned, was also abundant here. Then in a small pool of water here I met with a Duckweed, *Lemna trisulca* (Linn.), which I had not before seen in Derbyshire, and upon a wall, *Poa compressa* (Linn.).

Keeping on this side of Derby, Willington and Repton are the next places that I would take you to. The canal bank at the first mentioned place is good hunting ground. Here I found the Zig-zag Clover, *Trifolium medium* (Linn.), with its large heads, Lindley's Bramble, *Rubus Lindleyanus* (Lees), which is distinguishable by its polished stem, the Marsh Bed-straw, *Galium palustre* (Linn.), var. *Witheringii* (Smith), the prevailing variety

in Derbyshire, the typical palustre not once occurring in the county, I believe; the true Forget-me-not, *Myosotis palustris* (With.), var. *strigulosa* (Reichb.), which is the prevailing form in the county, the typical plants being of very infrequent occurrence. This variety differs from the type in having *adpressed pubescence* upon the stem, and in being more slender and erect than the type; the Hairy Mint, *Mentha hirsuta* (Linn.), the Greater Skull-cap, *Scutellaria galericulata* (Linn.), the Small Nettle, *Urtica urens* (Linn.), the White Willow, *Salix alba* (Linn.), a curious form of the Perfoliate Pondweed, *Potamogeton perfoliata* (Linn.), and *Glyceria aquatica* (Linn.), a grass that, I believe, does not grow elsewhere in South Derbyshire.

My first visit to Repton this year was on July 6th, the marriage-day of the Duke and Duchess of York, when I was in hopes of walking as far as Repton Rocks, but the heat was so intense that I could not venture beyond the bridge near Repton Park. However, this short walk was a very satisfactory one, as I obtained good specimens of *Rubus thyrsoides* (Wimm), previously mentioned as growing at Stanton-by-Bridge, and another Bramble not before met with in Derbyshire, *R. saxicolus* (P. J. Müell), which was named for me by Dr. Focke, of Bremen, who has made this genus his especial study. Near these plants a Rose was growing, which I believe to be *Rosa sepium* (Thuill), and if this surmise should be correct, it will prove to be new to the county. The other plants found near Repton were: the large Valerian, *Valeriana officinalis* (Linn.), var. *Mikanii* (Wats), the Flowering Rush, *Butomus umbellatus* (Linn.), the Wood Club-rush, *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Linn.), and the variety of the Marsh Horse-tail that is not uncommon round Derby, *Equisetum limosum* (Linn.), var. *fluviatile* (Linn.). Two other plants I desire to mention before I close are *Carduus pratensis* (Willd.), found in a damp meadow near Willington by the Rev. R. C. Bindley, Vicar of Micklegate, and *Verbascum virgatum* (With.), found at Chellaston by the Rev. A. C. Hassé, of Ockbrook.

These are some of the results of my walks round Derby in the spring and summer of 1893, and I trust that what has now been

laid before you may act as a stimulus to the Botanists now present, and stir them up to examine very closely those parts of the county they may visit. Above all, let them cultivate that mind which delights to observe in every plant, no matter how minute it may be, the wisdom of the great Creator in so contriving its various parts, and the functions which they are intended to fulfil, that it is fitted to do its part in the Universe, and thus, whilst benefiting man, show forth His glory and His omnipotence.

