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learned, even professional men and men ornamenting the bench, infected with this *bacillus lunae*.

To this weather superstition is associated superstition of the influence of the moon on man and beast, animate and inanimate matter, for example: sleeping in moonlight causes deformation and distortion of the face as well as sickness (a common belief among sailors); fish are poisoned when exposed to moonlight; the full moon drives away clouds, the French cover this by the proverb—*la lune mange les nuages*—(why not the sun?); farmers kill their hogs at certain phases of the moon, so that the fat swells and not shrivels in converting it to lard; similarly shingles are laid that they will not turn up; fence-posts are set so that they may draw down and not up; sweet-peas, other peas and seeds are planted to conform with the phases of the moon—and a lot of other nonsense.

My friends, all this is humbug, humbug, humbug. The moon has no more to do with the weather and those other things than I have to do with the digging of the canals of Mars. Hence, I ask you, implore you, beseech you, entreat you, exhort you, beg of you, to spread the gospel of truth, combat this superstition, destroy this false weather-god, crush this belief, build a funeral pyre and burn this heirloom of ignorance and superstition, although such heirlooms die hard.

If you do such, your visit here to-night has not been in vain.

A SWAMP.

BY FAITH FYLES C.E.F., OTTAWA.

The swamp to which I should like to introduce the reader, if he does not already know it, is one belonging to Mr. S. Chilcott, on the shore of Lake Johnson about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from North Wakefield station. This swamp is quite accessible. Mr. Chilcott owns both a telephone and a 'bus as well as the swamp, and he is very willing to meet you at the station, to drive you to the swamp, to provide a dinner and a guide, and in short, to arrange everything very nicely for you. In front of the swamp there is a little stream looked upon by some as the Rubicon, on the other side of which lies the land of the enemy in the form of black flies and mosquitoes; but those who love wild flowers see beyond, only one more delightful hunting ground. There is a rough road through the swamp which was made by cutting down the trees and allowing them to remain where they happened to fall. This is a little difficult at first, but you soon reach a smoother

path which, in June when the marsh-marigolds are out, winds like a brook of gold among the dark fir-trees and larches festooned fantastically with grey-green Spanish moss. Through their interlaced branches and fine network of needles the sunlight threads itself iridescently and incrusts the dew-wet grasses with jewels. Here are found the delicate white flowers of the Gold-thread, *Coptis trifolia* (L.) Salisb., the Star Flower, *Trientalis americana* (Pers.) Pursh., the Smilacinas, *S. trifolia* and *S. stellata* (L.) Desf., the wild Lily-of-the-Valley, *Maianthemum canadense* Desf., the sweet white Violet, *Viola blanda* Willd., the Wood Anemone, *A. quinquefolia* L. and the finely formed little blossoms of *Mitella nuda*. The flowers of the true Mitrewort, *Mitella diphylla* were nearly over when we were there, only an occasional one was left at the top of the stalk, but the lower mitres were bursting with seeds, looking like bits of jet in chalices of jade. The False Mitrewort, *Tiarella cordifolia* L. was still in bloom, in groups under the trees being much more representative of its other name "Foam Flower." Beside these, lay the greenish flowers of the Clintonias and the *Cornus canadensis*, relieved by the shell-pink bells of the *Linnaea borealis*. Just at this point in the path, on a former visit ten days earlier (24th May), I was fortunate enough to find one of the chef d'oeuvres of nature—that incomparable little orchid *Calypso bulbosa* (L.) Oakes. Like the goddess of silence whose name it bears, it makes its home in quiet secluded spots—most unexpected places. I found it quite by accident. As we were then approaching the swamp proper and sinking to the tops of our rubber boots, to gain a firmer footing I pulled aside a cedar bough and so brought to view the little Calypso in a bed of moss, among a tangled mass of boughs and broken branches. Its tapering amethystine sepals and petals outspread, its waxen pouch and transparent overleaf marked with madder and hung from a slender scape, its solitary green leaf springing from a second small corm, its very delicacy in its rough surroundings make it easily recognisable and quite unforgettable.

We proceeded for some distance between this narrow avenue of towering firs silhouetted against the blue sky like cathedral spires, till we came to open spaces in the swamp itself. Nothing could be more beautiful than these natural parterres of brilliant coloured flowers encircled by the sombre conebearers. Thousands of crimsoned Sarracenias in the centre and all around massed against the sheltering trees were the soft white clusters of Labrador Tea, *Ledum groenlandicum* Oeder. and Buckbean, *Menyanthes trifoliata* L. whose white velvety flowers against the bright satin of their leaves deserve a worthier name; this plant is no less interesting in the autumn when we find its many round

capsules filled with smooth shining amber seeds. Lying deep in the cool sphagnum we discovered the pale yellow flowers of the little Coral-root, *Corallorrhiza trifida* Chatelain and the nodding rose-coloured blossoms of *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* L., with its delicate foliage wandering about everywhere between the pitcher-plants, most capriciously and fancifully. The silky tassels of the Cotton Grass, *Eriophorum viridi-carinatum* (Engelm.) Fernald., waved above the blue flags and tall spikes of the green orchid, *Habenaria hyperborea* (L.) R. Br. and stirred the lightly poised petals of the Lady's Slippers. I found five different species of these last named exquisite orchids in this one swamp: the large yellow Lady's Slipper, *C. parviflorum* Salisb. var. *pubescens* (Willd.) Knight; the smaller one, sweet scented with rich madder-brown sepals behind the yellow lip; the pink stemless, *C. acaule* Ait., looking pale in its unaccustomed damp surroundings; the Ram's Head Lady's Slipper, *C. orientinum* R. Br., and the Showy Lady's Slipper, *C. hirsutum* Mill. These last lovely orchids were growing in great quantity, even more abundantly than the pitcher plants, but we were too early for them, there were not more than half-a-dozen in bloom. The 22nd of June, or a little later, is the best time to see them.

At the side of the path leading into one of the most enticing of these open spaces, there is a stump of a tree, covered with charming mosses and lichens, which our guide proudly designated as the "Lady Grey Stump." Lady Grey paid a visit to the swamp when the Showy Lady's Slippers were in full bloom, and she sat here to rest in the midst of thousands of these beautiful pink and white orchids.

BOOK NOTICE.

WATER-POWERS OF CANADA.—The first inventory ever taken of the water-powers of Canada has been completed by the Commission of Conservation and the results embodied in a large and profusely illustrated report just issued. The investigation made by the Commission, which has extended over a period of two years, shows that there are 1,016,521 horse-power developed from water-power in Canada. Every phase of the subject from the laws governing the disposition of water-powers in the various provinces, to the actual physical data regarding each individual water-power concerning which information was obtainable, is treated in the report. In addition, there is a very full bibliography of 30 pages, and appendices giving, among other things, the text of the laws concerning the export of power and also of the treaty recently concluded with the