

it seems as if there were scarcely any limit to the sharpness of Mr. Gibson's eye, the liveliness of his fancy, the aptness of his style, and, above all, the marvelous beauty of his picturing of plant and animal life. Happy are the lovers of nature who will hereafter observe her, guided by the *Sharp Eyes* of William Hamilton Gibson.

SHARP EYES.*

MR. GIBSON tells us that this new volume of his fulfills a plan had in mind through many years. He has long been receiving many letters from young students of natural history, who have asked his opinion on almost every conceivable subject of botany and zoölogy. Mr. Gibson has put together in *Sharp Eyes* a large number of brief articles, few of which occupy more than three or four pages, in answer to the most important of these queries. He apologizes somewhat for the assumption of acuteness implied in his title, but no one who is in the least degree acquainted with Mr. Gibson's talent for keen observation of the minutest things in nature will detect any conceit in the words. It is indeed a rare combination, such as only Mr. Gibson could make — these short papers describing in felicitous words the results of the most patient and kindly observation and the most ingenious fancifulness, and these drawings of flower and insect and field and wood, such as have placed Mr. Gibson in the first rank of American wood engravers.

The papers are arranged in four divisions, according to the season of the year, and we give a few of the many titles to indicate the spirit of the book: "The First Blossom" is the skunk-cabbage hood; "The Maple-Seed Revels" are held in relief against late March or April snows; "The Spring Peepers," with their sprightly music, announce the spring without mistake; "What the Midnight can Show Us" details the appearance in slumber of many a flower and plant in meadow and wood. As one turns over the pages of this natural history, written by an artist and poet,

*Sharp Eyes. A Rambler's Calendar of Fifty-Two Weeks among Insects, Birds, and Flowers. By William Hamilton Gibson. Illustrated by the author. Harper & Brothers, \$5.00.