

bulb = swollen underground

(64) stem (e.g. onion rooting (Alpine Rosy Bells) (p 85)

with scale-like coverings or

sometimes inter parchment leaves which protect the buds, vs. corms (v. i.)(\*)

sub: (Breck) #64 first list

Notes collected b. Tues Aug 16/77

f. Wed Aug 24/77

w. concurrently with germination → (1)

the swallow perched on its small

weak feet on neighbor's antenna or,

high branches — scarcely ever leaving

its perch; other swallows in tall

trees of other neighbors — their song

varied + voluble withering <soon> after the<sup>(2)</sup> weather; flowers

proverbial welcome summer.

{vertical:}

Coleridge

"In a Concert

Room" → singer's uptrilled strain

(L.Z.) end dutch art amiss

Pencil draft <Th> 8/18/7 - f. Wed 8/24/77

1

2 mountains earth heaps bulbs

3

4

5

6

7

8

Unopened brown

buds May 9/77, open

rosy May 18, but

Breck max. H 1 ft.

H never more than

6 in. Not bells really

but inverted cups

of "bells" limbed, centers

points glinting

silvery white.

Limbs closed cloudy

blown by 5/14

begin to appear

like spiral pink

+ white striped

barber poles <signs>, the

pink very slowly

disappearing, the

white papery

translucent, their

glinting centers

now black, a

skeleton of blossoms

lasting into

August, suddenly

gone in a heavy

thundershower

slope (Skeat - steep, precipitous A.S. + Icel. allied to stoop,

lean, ʔ-ʔ slope down or tilt up > M.E.

Century Dict (slang 1890, to run away, disappear

suddenly, decamp). (\*) corms, no scales ± membranous

coat, root at the base, nourish the young plant (as in bulbs)

+ from their base or apex develop cormels for future corms

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

[Ink draft f  
Wed 8.24/77]



l. 8 ends from [Roman type]

\* \* \*

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Edited and transcribed by Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas.}

## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Bulb, Corm**

*Century Dictionary (CD)*, **slope, \*uptrill**

Skeat, *A Concise Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*, **slope, Steep, Stoop**

Partridge, *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, **slope**

S. T. Coleridge, "Lines Composed in a Concert-Room"

## Alpine Rosy Bells

line 1: **Hillocky alpine rosy bells name**

line 2: **mountains earth heaps bulbs flowering**

line 3: **first bud brown turn rosy**

line 4: **upturned limbed cups pygmies silvery**

line 5: **anthers black to clouds dutch-art**

line 6: **amiss aspire least pink lightpierced**

line 7: **papery barber poles vanish discords**

line 8: **swallows uptrilled-thundershower horses slope from**

Aug 18-24/77

{LZ works primarily from his own observation notes of the alpine rosy bells they planted, the bulbs ordered from Breck's. The botanical name is *Allium oreophilum* [> mountain-loving or of the mountains] (synonym: *Allium ostrowskianum*)}.

\*Taylor, **Allium**. A large genus of mostly onion-scented herbs which includes both the common onion, the leek, garlic, chives, and shallot, as well as another group of perennial herbs grown for their ornamental flowers. Nearly all bear bulbs, often of considerable size as in the common onion. Leaves mostly basal, typically hollow, but usually flat in the ornamental species. Flowers few to a great many, always in a cluster (umbel), the stalklets of which arise at one point and produce a usually ball-like flower cluster, variously colored. Fruit a small capsule. (*Allium* is the classical name of garlic.)

line 1: **Hillocky alpine rosy bells name**

{See notes for #65 Jade, Pillock hill from *King Lear*}.

\*Taylor, **alpina, -us, -um**. Growing above the timber line.

\*CD, **alp**<sup>2</sup>, *n.* [Sing. from pl. *alps* < L. *alpes*, high mountains, specifically those of Switzerland; said to be of Celtic origin: {...} G. (Swiss) *alpe*, a mountain pasture.] > **apline**, Of, pertaining to, or connected with the Alps (then written with a capital), or any lofty mountain; very high; elevated.

Specifically applied to plants growing and animals living on mountains above the forest limits, that is, above the line where the climate becomes too cold for trees to grow.

See headnote.

line 2: **mountains earth heaps bulbs flowering**

See Taylor and *CD* line 1.

Taylor, **Bulb**. A much swollen, usually underground stem, of which the onion is a typical example, and from the bottom of which roots always arise. The scale-like coverings are actually much modified, food-storing leaves which completely surround, protect, and feed the bud. True bulbs like onion and tulip always have these scale-like coverings, and sometimes the outermost layer is parchment of skin-like.

line 3: **first bud brown turn rosy**

{LZ's notes above: "Unopened brown / buds May 9/77, open / rosy May 18"}.

line 4: **upturned limbed cups pygmies silvery**

{LZ notes above, continuing from line 3: "{...} Not bells really / but inverted cups / of 'bells' limbed, centers / points glinting / silvery white {...}"}

line 5: **anthers black to clouds dutch-art**

{LZ notes above, continuing from line 4: "{...} Limbs closed cloudy / weather; {...}"}

{**dutch-art**. The Zukofskys ordered their bulbs from Breck's in Holland, the largest mail-order company for Dutch bulbs.}

lines 6 & 7: **amiss aspire least pink lightpierced / papery barber poles vanish discords**

{LZ's notes above, continuing from line 5: "{...} blown by 5/14 / begin to appear / like spiral pink + white striped / barber poles <signs>, the / pink very slowly / disappearing, the / white papery / translucent, their / glinting centers / now black, a / skeleton of blossoms / lasting into / August, Suddenly / gone in a heavy / thundershower {...}"}

line 8: **swallows uptrilled-thundershower horses slope from**

{On swallows see LZ's descriptive notes above. The "proverbial swallow summer," refers to: "one swallow does not make a summer," often attributed to Aristotle but proverbial. See "A"-12 (138), "A"-13 (295) and *Bottom* 112}.

S. T. Coleridge, "Lines Composed in a Concert-Room," lines 5-8:

These feel not Music's genuine power, nor deign  
To melt at Nature's passion-warbled plaint;  
But when the long-breathed singer's up-trilled strain  
Bursts in a squall, they gape for wonderment.

{LZ probably found this quotation in the *CD*, **uptrill**, v. t. To sing or trill in a high voice; giving the last two lines quoted above as an example and the short form of the title as in his notes above. This definition is immediately followed by that for **unturn**, see line 4}.

{ **thundershower horses** is possibly from Carlyle, *Past and Present*, Book IV, Chap. IV: Ye have shivered mountains asunder, made the hard iron pliant to you as soft putty: the Forest-giants, Marsh-jötuns bear sheaves of gold-gran; Ægir the Sea-demon himself stretches his back for a sleek highway to you, and on Firehorses and Windhorses ye career. Ye are most strong. Thor red-bearded, with his blue sun-eyes, with his cheery marching from your rugged Eastern Wildernesses, hitherward from the gray Dawn of Time! LZ repeatedly copied out “Firehorses and Windhorses” in NBk}.

See LZ notes line 7.

Skeat, **slope**, an incline. (E.) M. E. *slope*; *a slope*, on the slope, ready to slip. From the weak grade (*slop-*) of A. S. *slūpan*, to slip.

**Stoop** (1), to lean forward. (E.) Prov. E. *stowp*; M. E. *stoupen*. A. S. *stūpian*. +M. Du. *stuypen*, O. Icel. *stūpa*, to stoop; Swd. *stupa*, to tilt, fall. Allied to **Steep**.

**Steep** (1), precipitous. (E.) M. E. *steep*, A. S. *stēap*, steep, high. + Icel. *steyppōr*, steep, lofty. Allied to *stoop*, whence the notion of sloping down, or tilted up; cf. Swed. *stupande*, sloping; Norweg. *stupa*, to fall, *stup*, a steep cliff. See **Stoop**.

CD, **slope**, n. {...} **II. 2.** To run away; decamp; elope; disappear suddenly. [Slang.]