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THE
ORCHID MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN. **ALBUM,**

COMPRISING
COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS
OF
NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY
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THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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CYPRIPEDIUM MEASURESIANUM.

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[PLATE 304.]

Garden Hybrid.

Terrestrial. Stemless. *Leaves* two-ranked (distichous), ligulate acute, from six to eight inches in length, and upwards of an inch in breadth, plain, deep green on the upper side, pale green beneath, marbled with dull purple. *Peduncle* one-flowered, purple, pubescent, bearing a large ovate-acute bract, which envelopes the ovary, and is pale green, mottled with purple. *Flowers* about five inches in diameter; *dorsal sepal* ovate-lanceolate, yellow, veined with greenish yellow, and bordered with white; *lateral sepal* ovate, slightly paler in colour; *petals* spathulate, slightly undulate, unequal-sided, light brownish purple, passing into bright orange with age, suffused on the upper part with purple, and having the appearance of being freshly varnished; *lip* large and bold, oblong-ovate, obtuse, dull orange, prominently veined with purplish brown. *Staminode* somewhat obcordate, papillose, notched above and below, with a small point in the lower sinus.

CYPRIPEDIUM MEASURESIANUM, *Williams' New Plant Catalogue*, 1887, p. 18., with fig.

This distinct and splendid new hybrid *Cypripedium* is a cross between *C. villosum* and *C. venustum*, partaking of both parents in a well-marked form. This great novelty, which is handsome in foliage as well as in flower, thrives well in a cool house, thereby making it a great acquisition. Cultivated in this way the blossoms are of long duration, and become a brighter yellow colour than if grown in a warm house; moreover the longer the flowers are in bloom the brighter and more showy in colour do they become. This is quite a novel feature, for, as a general rule, the longer they are in bloom the less brilliant are the colours. Our artist took his drawing from a fine grown plant in the well-known collection of R. H. Measures, Esq., who had, until recently, the entire stock of this beautiful species. The hybrid *Cypripediums* are great favourites of Mr. Measures, and he has some of the best specimens in the country, which are well cultivated by Mr. Fraser, the gardener.

Cypripedium Measuresianum is a distinct and handsome hybrid, named in honour of R. H. Measures, Esq., and is of compact growth, with foliage about six to eight inches in length, of a shining dark green colour, the under-side being marked with purple. The flower scape is purple and hairy, as in *C. venustum*; dorsal sepal ovate lanceolate, yellow margined with white, and veined with yellowish green; petals similar in shape to *C. villosum*, of a light brown-purple, changing to bright orange, suffused on the upper half with purple, and possessing the same varnished appearance, which is such a marked feature in that species; lip large,

orange, tinted and veined with purplish brown. It blooms during the winter, producing its blossoms very freely, which continue in perfection two and three months—a fact that makes it doubly useful, as at this period of the year all flowers are in great request.

This *Cypripedium* thrives well in a cool house—that is to say, in a temperature ranging from 45° to 50° during the winter months. The blossoms assume a richer hue in a cool atmosphere, and, as we mentioned before, the older the flowers become the brighter colour they assume, this brightness being retained until the flower falls. This makes the plant of more value to the cultivator, as we have so many Orchids that require a high temperature, and thus anyone who possesses an intermediate house will be able to cultivate this species. Besides this one there are several others that thrive best in an intermediate temperature. We have seen it grown in a higher temperature since our drawing was taken, but the colour of the flower was not nearly so bright a yellow as those represented in the plate we have before us. The material that will suit this plant is good fibrous peat and leaf-mould, adding a small quantity of fibrous loam, and give ample drainage, filling the pot half full, then fill up with the compost to within an inch of the rim, elevating it towards the centre, and place the plant so that the soil covers the roots, make it firm, but do not pot too hard; it delights in porous soil, and enjoys a moderate supply of water when in vigorous growth, which continues nearly all the year round. It should be given all the light possible, care being taken to shade from the burning sun in summer.
