

THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

VOL. XII.—NEW SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1879.

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GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

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A WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE,

Volume XI., JANUARY to JUNE, 1879.

W. RICHARDS, 47, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.

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instruments of warfare, and for field sports: but the days of the tough Yew-bow are gone by, the trade of the bowier, fletcher, &c., are extinct; for the art of archery, the bow and the shaft, are now only seen as playthings in the hands of young ladies and gentlemen. The change in the use of the bow now-a-days, when compared with what it was in days of yore, is a wonderful example of the mutability of manners and customs, for we read of English skill with the bow at Cressy and Poitiers 500 years ago, and at Agincourt, and in the wars of York and Lancaster. Now, if the heroes of those days were to be raised from their slumber under the Yew trees, and see an army accoutred for modern warfare with guns measured by weight in tons, and with a range reckoned by miles, surely they would say that, with such engines, the battle could no more be to the strong, and against such destruction "men were brave in vain."

So late as in the days of Queen Elizabeth, the bowiers, in 1570, petitioned that lady to enforce in their favour a statute of Henry VIII., enjoining every man to have a bow in his house, and every able-bodied man was to practise the art of archery, and not only have a 6-foot bow in his house, but know how to use it as a weapon of defence, and, if need be, a brand for battle fray.

But what more immediately concerns the planter now-a-days, is to enquire after the peaceful uses of the Yew tree as an evergreen to shelter and adorn the landscape. The unfading verdure of the Yew trees has for many years been duly appreciated. The monks, who were the chief gardeners and planters before the change of religion, have left us some splendid samples of Yew hedges in their pleasure-grounds and Yew trees in their churchyards; and Lord Harrington, aided by the original talent and skill of Mr. Barron, took up the broken fortunes of the Yew family, and brought them together at Elvaston, where they astonished all the world.

The magnificent Yew trees in Gresford churchyard, high, wide, and hollowed with age, must have been planted long before the Reformation, and, if so, attest the ancient Churchman's taste for Yew trees. There were some good samples of Yew arbours in Lord Stanley of Alderley's garden; one was high, overarched, and at the time that I had charge of the garden it was the burial-place of the favourite lap-dogs of the family; yet this respect for beasts did not equal that of the Duke of Northumberland, for his favourite monkey, "Joko" had a headstone over his grave and a Latin inscription, beginning *Hic simia* (this monkey).

At no time of the year can a more effectual shelter to a garden be found than a Yew hedge, for it sifts the wind and does not form eddies like a wall; and the reason why it is so seldom seen is very easily given, for it costs much and grows slowly, and few have the patience to wait twenty or thirty years for the issue of their plantation. The Rowan tree will bring a return of crate wood in less than twenty years; the Larch, in like manner, will yield posts and rails and railway sleepers in thirty years, and some of the Poplars in fifteen years will bring in a good revenue of wood for clog-soles; but he that plants Yew trees does so for posterity. The wood, when green, weighs about 80 lb. per cubic foot, and when dry about 60 lb. The fineness of its grain is owing to the thinness of its annual layers. In a piece only 20 inches in diameter, 280 annual layers were counted. It is allowed to be the finest European wood for cabinet-making purposes. Tables made of Yew when the grain is fine are far more beautiful than tables of Mahogany. The root part is said to vie with the ancient Citron. It is generally employed for veneers and for inlaid work, and is used by the turner for musical

instruments, snuff-boxes, &c. The Yew when wholly buried in the earth becomes almost incorruptible, being found only a little blackened and heavier after lying a century under-ground, and so exceedingly valuable is the wood of a large sound Yew tree that one at Box Hill was valued at £100.

The legends connected with the long bow would fill volumes, this weapon being the principal one used by the ancient Britons in all their wars. The time has been when Venetian ships were obliged to import into this country ten bow staves with every butt of wine, and no one was allowed to export Yew on any consideration.

In conclusion, then, I would state that although the Yew tree has hitherto been a dweller with the dead, it is now used as a truly elegant evergreen, and Yew hedges, broad and high, may be seen in some of the finest seats in England. The old Yew trees scattered all over the country are venerated, as well they may after a life of a thousand years. In planting, or, properly speaking, in sowing Yew trees, the following example is worthy of notice. Whoever has travelled from Buxton to Bakewell, either by road or rail, must have seen some dark green Yew bushes hanging out from the face of the limestone rocks; now this is really rockwork natural and no sham; the chinks of the rock get filled in time with vegetable mould, and the Yew berry, whether by accident or design, gets possession, and the effect may be seen. How easily therefore could such Yew bushes be planted or sown on precipitous places away from cattle, and thus make even the barren rock put on a mantle of green.

On Palm Sunday the Catholic Church distributes twigs of Willow and Yew in commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This truly time-honoured tree, then, has earned for itself a name, for it has supplied the Palm for high ceremonial in the church, the bow for warfare in the field, and we often see some venerable Yew tree in the lone churchyard as if it were chief mourner and held the pall over the domain of Death. *A. Forsyth.*

New Garden Plants.

ARISEMA GALEATUM, *N. E. Br.*

This is an Aroid with the habit, and a leaf that is much like the leaf of *A. speciosum*, though not so distinctly bordered with purple; but it is very distinct from all the described Indian species, in its curious cucullate-galeate spathe, with a terminal pendent folded lobe to the galea. The only described species which have a similar form of spathe, are the Japanese *A. ringens*, and *A. præcox*, from both of which it is very distinct by its spadix ending in a long pendulous thread-like apex, as well as by its green coloured spathe, with a smaller galea; the galea curves over and completely conceals the mouth of the tube, forming underneath itself a rather large roundish opening to the spathe, partly shielded in front by the terminal folded pendent lobe. Through the opening the thread-like apex of the spadix hangs down, but in the specimen seen it did not reach to the ground as it does in *A. speciosum*, though perhaps in more vigorous plants it would do so. The plant from which the following description is taken was sent from Darjeeling by Mr. Gammie in the early part of this year to Kew, where it flowered the first week of this month. As this is but the first growth since importation, I have little doubt that the dimensions given below are considerably below the average, though probably in larger plants the proportions will remain nearly the same. The following is a description of the plant:—

Leaf solitary, trifoliate; petiole 1 foot long, terete striate, tapering upwards, pale green without markings; leaflets three, all on footstalks about 1 inch long, the middle one 6 inches long, 3½ inches broad, elliptic, apex rather abruptly and shortly cuspidate-acuminate, base acute, lateral leaflets 7 inches long, nearly 4 inches broad, very oblique, the part on upper side of midrib semicordate, the part on lower side of midrib semicordate, and twice as broad as the upper part, apex rather shortly acuminate; all rich bright green, with narrow purple crimped margins, and the course of the midribs whitish, somewhat rugose above from the impressed midrib and veins, which are all very prominent beneath. Scape 3–4 inches long,

terete, striate, pale green, without markings. Spathe a bout 4 inches long, tube cylindrical, about 2 inches long, limb galeate, galea cucullate, slightly compressed, very abruptly curved over and beyond the mouth of the tube, with a pendent elliptic longitudinally folded mucronate terminal lobe, which reaches to about half way down the tube of the spathe, outside of spathe light green, tinted with purplish at base, with many longitudinal white lines (ribs), inside with the tube purple, and the limb and terminal lobe light green, marked with longitudinal white lines as on the outside. Spadix unisexual, longer than the spathe. Male spadix with the stamiferous portion pale purple, about ¼ inch long, synandria in several lax spirals (scattered), stipitate, 3–5-celled, anthers with a circumscissile dehiscence, pollen white. Appendix white, smooth, stipitate, truncate and thick at base, curved forwards under the galea, and gradually attenuate into a long pendulous thread-like apex. Female spadix unknown to me. Native of Sikkim Himalaya. *N. E. Brown, Herbarium, Kew.*

* LÆLIA PHILBRICKIANA.*

This is an artificial cross between *Cattleya Aclandiae* and *Lælia elegans*, the latter being the pollen-parent. This being probably a descendant of *Cattleya guttata* Leopoldi and some *Lælia*, I do not wonder that at first sight I guessed I had before me a mule between *Cattleya Leopoldi* and *C. Aclandiae*. The flowering bulb is only 5 inches high, two-leaved, the larger leaf being 3½ inches long and 1½ wide. The flowers are uncommonly beautiful, equalling those of a good *Lælia elegans*, as they are to be seen in Mr. Day's grand display, most probably unique in the world. The sepals and petals are light chestnut-brown with purple spots. Lips anterior, blade transverse, subcordate and emarginate, of deep rich purple, with a little white triangle to be seen in the very middle of the base, running out in a line, not to be seen on a front view. Side laciniae oblongo-triangular, whitish with light purple borders. Disk between the laciniae light purple, with a whitish middle line, and some darker purple streaks radiating outside. Column very large, as in *C. Aclandiae*, dark purple, only light green at base. I obtained this novelty from Messrs. Veitch; no doubt a new Sedianum work. It is dedicated to Mr. Philbrick, of Regent's Park, London, a gentleman well known as a skilful Orchid grower. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM MASTERSIANUM, *n. sp.†*

This is a curious novelty, with large flowers, reminding one of such a *Cypridium* as *Cypridium insigne* in shape, but the leaves are those of the venustum group, though the tessellation is exceedingly obscure. The peduncle is dark purple, rather tall. Bract very short. Ovary curved, very hairy. Upper or odd sepal broad, ovate, transverse, green, with large white border, which looks very pretty. Connate sepal much smaller, green, bidentate at apex. Sepals very broad, blunt, transverse, copper coloured, with numerous nice dark spots and an ochre-coloured border at the lower part of the base. Lip wide, brown, with ochre-coloured margins, much inflated. Staminate ochre-coloured, with two brown streaks, tridentate on the back, bilobe with a very deep sinus internally.

I have to thank Messrs. Veitch for the species. It is of Sondaic origin, and is named in honour of my friend Dr. Maxwell Masters at the request of Messrs. Veitch. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

SACCOLABIUM GURWALICUM, *Lindl.*

This lovely thing is a miniature of *Saccolabium guttatum*, with a porrect lip, as in *S. violaceum* and *giganteum*, not covering the column. It is very pretty, having half the dimensions of the just-named species. It is white flowered. The sepals and petals have some amethyst-coloured blotches, and the lip's blade has the same colour. Dr. Lindley has very acutely pointed out, from dry specimens, that the spur is hairy inside, the short stiff acute hairs being erect, viz., directing their apices to the mouth of the spur.

* *Lælia Philbrickiana* (*Lælia elegans* × *Cattleya Aclandiae*). — Pseudobulbo humili diphylo; inflorescentia bifora; sepalis ligulatis acutis; tepalibus paulo latioribus; labello trifido; laciniiis lateralibus; basi semicordatis; antice angulatis obtusis; siou angusto separatis a lacinia antice subcordata emarginata transversa lateribus minute lobulato crispula; columna trigona ampla; dorso obtusaogula, superne dilatata; pollinibus valde inaequalibus. Sepala et tepala pallide castanea maculis quibusdam purpureis. Labelli lacinia antica pulcherrime purpurea. Lacinia laterales albidæ, pallide purpureo-marginatæ. Linea longitudinalis mediana inter lacinias laterales albidæ utrinque purpurea zona lata extrorsum radiante inclusæ. Columna pulcherrima purpureo-violaceæ basi albiviridis. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

† *Cypridium Mastersianum*, Rehb. f.—Aff. *Cypridium Bullenianum*; foliis obscurissime marmoratis; pedunculo valido elongato pilosulo; bractea ovario pedicellato multo breviori; sepalis impari ovali transversis; sepalis connatis multo minoribus apice bidentatis angustis; labello multo brevioribus tepalibus amplis oblongis obtusis divaricatis; labello calceæ obtusissimo amplo, ore antice emarginato; angulis obtusis erectis; laciniiis lateralibus involutis valde papulosis; staminodii oblongo; postice bidentato; antice profunde emarginato; laciniiis lateralibus semioblongis obtusis interjecto denticulo minuto in sinu.—*Ins. Sood. Cl. Mastersio nostro dicatum. (Hort. Veitch.)*