



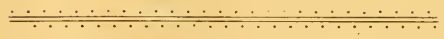
THE ————— ❁

❁ AMERICAN ❁

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A SEMI-MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR THE TRADE.

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VOLUME III.  
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CHICAGO:  
AMERICAN FLORIST COMPANY.  
1888.

# THE AMERICAN FLORIST



America is "the Prow of the Vessel; there may be more comfort Amidships, but we are the first to touch Unknown Seas."

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## THE AMERICAN FLORIST

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SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS.—E. G. Hill, Richmond, Ind., president; John N. May, Summit, N. J., vice-president; M. A. Hunt, Terre Haute, Ind., treasurer; Wm. J. Stewart, 67 Bromfield street, Boston, Mass., secretary. The fourth annual meeting at New York, Aug. 17, 18, 19, 1888.

WITH MUCH REGRET we make the sad announcement of the death at New York on Nov. 17, of Mr. James Reid, the well-known seedsman. A portrait will appear in our next issue.

ANOTHER HARVEST TIME is at hand for the live florist. Let the wise man secure his supply of all stock in demand for the next thirty days, and thereby obtain the wherewithal to settle accounts due and properly celebrate the holiday season.

CURRIE BROS.' FLOWER CODE reaches us. We regret very much to note that the code words for various shipping instructions adopted by the S. A. F. have been changed. We cannot see any gain, but rather prospect for greater confusion thereby.

### "Trees Boxed, Third Class."

In No. 55 you briefly tell a correspondent some of the many good things that the society has accomplished—all very true and convincing. Now allow me to urge concerted action to accomplish a reduction of express charges upon plants and cut flowers. The roots of the former are mostly enveloped in soil that adds to the weight, and the latter are often packed with ice; yet on the total weights we have to pay the very highest charges—not even getting the benefit of the hundred pound rates—but having each box charged up separately, although a number of them would come on the same train and from the same shipper.

The American Association of Nurserymen at their last convention appointed an energetic committee to interview the railroad officials with the object of securing a reduction of freight on trees, and the result is that instead of the old stereotyped "Trees and shrubby boxed first-class, prepaid and guaranteed," we are to have as stated above "Trees boxed, third-class," so Mr. Emery, one of the committee, briefly writes me. Now let us go and do likewise. ALEX. MURDOCH.  
Pittsburg, Pa.

## Chrysanthemum Show.

### Chrysanthemum Shows, 1887.

During the first two weeks in November shows were held in the following cities: Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Orange N. J., Chicago, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Hartford Conn., New Haven Conn., Springfield Mass., Youngstown O., Memphis Tenn., Syracuse N. Y., Nashville Tenn., San Francisco, St. Joseph Mo., Providence R. I., Woonsocket R. I., Worcester Mass., Easton Pa., and Columbus, O. In addition to these a large number of excellent displays have been made by individual florists all over the country. It would therefore seem that "the chrysanthemum craze" is gaining considerable strength rather than waning. The lavish notices these exhibitions have received from the local press everywhere have certainly been of immense benefit to the whole trade.

### Dates for Chrysanthemum Shows.

With one exception, all the chrysanthemum shows in the United States occurred the same week. This is unfortunate, because in cut flower classes where the distance between the cities holding shows is not too great, all good growers could compete and attend the shows in person, if the dates could be so arranged as not to clash.

I notice in the English horticultural journals that the dates of chrysanthemum shows there cover a period from Nov. 3 to Dec. 5, and there are more set down from Nov. 15 to 18 than there are from 8 to 11. Mr. Wm. K. Harris says that all the best varieties are in their prime from the 8th until the 12th of November. There must be some way of retarding chrysanthemums in Europe, or the cultivators select those varieties which are predisposed to bloom late, to prolong the exhibition season over a longer period than seems possible in this country. It would be a great accommodation to those actively engaged in the details of exhibiting or preparing for a show, to have them distributed through the first three weeks in November.

It will be well for all committees preparing schedules for next year to bear in mind that 1888 is the presidential election year, and if I am not in error the result is on the second Tuesday in November—just when the queen of autumn is in the zenith of her glory; and judging from past experience, a chrysanthemum show, no matter how meritorious it may be, will be flat, stale and unprofitable if it happens during election week, especially if the contest is close and the result in doubt for several days, as it was in 1884.

This is an age of progress. Would it not be a greater test of skill for the suc-

cessful exhibitor to carry off the blue ribbon at a show in an off week, than when the flower is at its height? Growers and exhibitors should be consulted, as well as the committees on finance, before dates are fixed for next year's chrysanthemum shows.

Philadelphia. EDWIN LONSDALE.

## Notes on the New York Chrysanthemum Show.

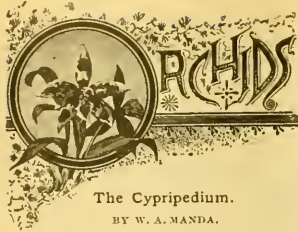
BY WM. FALCONER.

The finest Japanese flower in the exhibition was J. Deleaux, dark velvety crimson, very full and double and seven inches across. Robert Bottomly with broad pure white petals was eight inches across and the largest flower in the hall. Other fine Japanese flowers were Mrs. Langtry, white, six and one-half inches; Baron de Prailly, rose-purple, seven inches; Mrs. Wheeler, nankeen, six inches; Mrs. Frank Thompson, pink and silver, seven inches; Criterion, amber, six and one-half inches; Fair Maid of Guernsey, white, six and one-half inches; also Lord Byron, Domination, Roseum superbum, Soleil Levant, Troubadour and Grandiflorum. Among the best of the Chinese sorts were Nil Desperandum, Princess Teck, John Bradley, Jean d'Arc, Lord Alcester, Cullingfordii, Alfred Salter, Lord Wolsley, Jardin des Plantes, Baron Beust, E. P. Wilbur and Salteri. Jean d'Arc was four inches across by three and one-half inches high in middle, and this was a good average of the best of them. Anemone and pompon flowers were limited in number and contained nothing of much merit.

Seedlings were not numerous represented nor did they contain anything very desirable. One raised by David Rose and named Geo. Pratt, the judges considered the best seedling in the show. It is after the fashion of Hon. J. Welsh but larger and not so bright. Julius Scharff showed several nice seedlings; conspicuous among them were C. I. Allen, Japanese, semi-double, sulphur-yellow, six inches across; Mrs. George J. Tyson, Japanese, full double, half quilled, large, rose-purple; and James G. Blaine, loosely incurved, bold, crimson-brown and gold. The chrysanthemum bouquets were too stiff and the flowers in them too much packed together.

The baskets of chrysanthemums needed heavier dressing than light-froned ferns. One basket was dressed with sprays of hemlock and Thunberg's spiraea. I use shoots of Berberis aquifolia (Mahonia aquifolia) for chrysanthemums, tritomas, white day-lilies, and other heavy flowers, and know of nothing better.

Corsage bouquets were made of roses or lily of the valley and violets. Now, if there is one thing more than another I like about a bouquet of any sort it is "finish." But when I find the stems of



The Cypripedium.

BY W. A. MANDA.

VII.

The nomenclature of this genus is very clear and simple, yet in cultivation we find many cypripeds wrongly named, or the specific name is omitted and only that of the variety used, which is very misleading in any case where there are a great many kinds to be considered. Not only in cultivation do we find these mistakes, but even several authors of books, not being thoroughly acquainted with this genus, have made serious errors. These are especially dangerous, as people searching for information are misled rather than correctly instructed. Amateurs who are forming collections have great trouble in getting some of the varieties true to name. Frequently after growing a tiny little plant which has been purchased for a large sum of money, for three or four years, it turns out to be quite a common kind, of which he already has a stock or does not want at all. Again, in some cases a rare and valuable plant turns out of a lot that has been purchased for a common species with a small outlay only. Several species have also synonyms, or a variety was considered as a species by some botanist, and later on when the name came to be changed, in a good many instances it would be grown under the old name.

The history of some species is also obscure or unreliable, owing sometimes to circumstances which, if they were known, would make quite a stir. The native country of all the species is known, but the exact locality only of the old kinds. If a new cypriped is discovered, we hear it comes from the East Indies, and we have to be satisfied with that. Nor can we blame much the discoverer of a new species for keeping secret the exact spot where it was found. The searching for new kinds and collecting is very expensive and dangerous business, and therefore when a man discovers a new species which has cost him a great deal of time, money and exposure to danger, he is justified in endeavoring to enjoy the benefits as well as the troubles, and in preventing, if possible, other men from reaping the harvest of his labor. As to hybrids, they are generally recorded, but where they are not the parents are easily found out by the appearance of the progeny. The varieties are the hardest to determine positively, especially when the flower has not its normal size and form, and where the matter of variation depends on a few spots or a slight shade of color. For instance, the old *C. insigne* is sold in twenty-two varieties, so the difference between this large number cannot be great. However, the connoisseur will not fail to see the variation when there is any worth considering.

## PLANTS IN FLOWER.

*Cypripedium Pitecherianum*, n. sp., Philippine Islands?—Roots thick, dark and downy; leaves acute, five inches long and two and one-half inches wide, coriaceous, green tessellated with irregu-

lar darker spots, smooth on both sides but slightly incised at the edges; scape over a foot high, purplish and downy; bract one inch long, green; ovary one and three-quarters inches long, green and grooved, remarkably bent downwards. The dorsal sepal is over two inches long and nearly two wide, acuminate, slightly revolute, whitish with bright green veins, and beset with very many black and dark purple spots, some running in lines, while others are scattered irregularly, covering nearly the whole sepal; the lower sepal is one and one-half inches long and three-quarters of an inch wide,

appearance, by which it is easily recognized. It is certainly one of the most beautiful of cypripeds, and flowering at this time of the year, it will be a welcome addition to the already many existing kinds. Unfortunately, this is an unique plant at present, I having received it among other plants coming from the East Indies. The plant is growing well in a warm house with plenty of light and moisture, potted in peat, sphagnum and potsherds. It gives me great pleasure to name this plant after James R. Pitcher, Esq., of Short Hills, N. J., who is a great lover of this genus and a happy owner of



CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE

whitish with broader green veins; petals deflected, two and one-half inches long by three-quarters of an inch wide, whitish, changing to purple toward the ends, and with several bright green veins running through; both edges are beset with black warts and hairs, while the inner part is covered with many large and smaller black spots; the lip is two inches long and uniformly seven-eighths of an inch broad, roundish, light purple with darker veins, and the under side is whitish green, while the inside is most beautifully studded with dark purple on a yellowish ground; the staminode is purplish, horseshoe-shaped with points incurved inside nearly touching each other, differing thus from the rest of the barbatum group, in which this plant may be classed.—*W. A. Manda*.

When I undertook to write up this class of plants I had no idea that when beginning to describe the different kinds I would have the fortune to describe a new one, and a beauty at that! The distinct features of this plant are the upper sepal spotted and the curious ovary that bends downward, on which the flower is suspended, giving it thus quite a novel

one of the finest collections of this class of plants.

*Cypripedium insigne*, Wall. Nepal and Assam.—Roots thick, light-colored, downy; leaves six to twelve inches long by one inch broad, ligulate, uniformly of a light green color; scape eight inches high, blackish purple, downy; bract one and one-half inches long, green purplish at the base; ovary triangular, two inches long, slightly bent at the end; flower large, bold and showy; upper sepal two and one-half inches long by one and one-half broad, green, spotted with heavy brown spots, the end white and reflexed; lower sepal two inches long by one broad, light green with few light spots running in lines; lip two inches long and one inch wide at the broadest part, roundish, tawny yellow in color; petals two and one-half inches long and three-quarters of an inch broad, horizontal, undulated, yellowish green, shaded and veined with brown; staminode large, yellowish, broadly spatulate with a horn projecting in the middle. This is the second oldest tropical cypriped introduced into our culture, dating back as far as 1819, at which time it was discovered by Wallich in the



CYPRIPEDIUM PITCHERIANUM.

mountains of Sylhet, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, growing in moss among rocks. It is the commonest species in cultivation at present, being of the easiest culture possible; indeed, any one knowing how to grow the geranium can grow this plant. It does best potted in peat and moss and kept well watered during the period of its growth. This species delights in light and sunshine, which are necessary to produce a good crop of flowers. A temperature between  $50^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  is sufficient for the well being of this plant, but a little cooler or warmer does not injure it in any way. It can be had in flower at any time from September till March, as it can be forced along or kept cool and retarded till spring. The flowers, which are produced very freely, last fully three months in full beauty, and several weeks when cut. This species varies greatly in the size and shape of the slipper, and especially in the coloring of the dorsal sepal, and the farther downward the white color descends in the sepals the more valuable is the variety.

*Cypripedium insigne*. Wall. Var. *Kimballianum*. Sander. Khasya.—Leaves same size as in type, darker; bract narrower and straighter; upper sepal two and three-quarters inches long and one and one-fourth broad, flat, reflexed at the top, bright yellowish green, the heavy dark spots running in lines into the white, which extend half way on the sides; lower sepal two and one-quarter inches long, narrow, light green, spotted, white at the end; lip two inches long and one and one-quarter broad at the widest part, from which it comes down nearly to a point, olive green in color; petals two and one-half inches long, reflexed at the ends, tawny yellow with darker lines; staminode flat, irregularly notched. This is a beautiful and distinct variety, having been discovered in the Khasya mountains by Mr. I. Forstermann, and named in compliment to W. S. Kimball, Esq., of Rochester, N. Y., a gentleman well known among the orchidists, and who has built up a wonderful collection of orchids in the last few years. The peculiarity of this variety is the narrow, flat and nearly straight sepal, and the slipper, which has the form of those fashionable shoes of nowadays (which are used for raising corns). The whole plant and flower is much darker than the type, and the sepals have more white than usual. It is a fine addition of last year, and flowering for the first time in this country. It needs the same treatment as the common type.

*Cypripedium insigne*. Wall. Var. *Nilsonii*, Hort. Khasya.—Leaves broader than the type; upper sepal two and one-half inches long by one and one-half broad; light green, with white and margin, spotted irregularly with brown spots; lower sepal one and one-half inches long by one wide, whitish green changing to white toward the end, lightly spotted; lip only one and three-quarters inches long and over an inch broad, roundish, olive green in color; petals and staminode as in the type. This variety is remarkable on account of its very short and round slipper, and the white margin that extends downwards, which makes it well worthy of a place in any select collection of cypripeds. Grows readily under same conditions as the type.

*Selenipedium longifolium*, Reich. f. Costa Rica. (Syn. *Cypripedium longifolium*. *Cypripedium Reichenbachianum*).—Roots thin, many and matted; leaves one to three feet long and one to one and a half inches broad, keeled, acute, dark green on the surface and

pale green underneath; scape two to five feet long, downy, branched and many flowered, dark green; bracts three inches long, light green; ovary one and three-quarters inches long, thin, brownish purple; upper sepal one and three quarters inches long by three-quarters wide, green with darker veins and whitish margin; lower sepal one and three-quarters inches long by one and one-quarter broad, greenish, with white margin; petals horizontal, twice twisted, four and one-half inches long and only a quarter of an inch wide, green and white, while the extremities are purplish; lip two inches long and nearly uniformly three-quarters of an inch wide, green, shaded with brown and slightly spotted on the inside; staminode nearly oval, green, with black bristles on the top and side edges. This is a noble looking plant when well grown. Mr. Williams in his book says that there is only one flower open at a time, but I have before me a plant with thirteen spikes, all branched; the longest is five feet, with two branches, each bearing two flowers, while the main branch has three, making seven for one spike, and when grown in that way it is a species not to be despised. Of course the colors are not very striking, but the flowers are large, plenty of them, and it keeps flowering for ten months out of twelve. This species was originally discovered and introduced by Warszewicz in Costa Rica, and hence should be grown in a warm house, with plenty of light, sun and air. Being a free grower, it requires plenty of pot room and good turfy peat; this with some sphagnum moss are the right materials to grow this plant in.

*Selenipedium Sedeni*, Reich. f. x. (*S. Schlimi* x *S. longifolium*.) (*Syn. Cypripedium Sedeni*.)—Roots thin, matted; leaves twelve to eighteen inches long and one and one-half inches broad, pointed and somewhat keeled, bright green; scape purplish, downy, one to two feet long, branched, many flowered; bracts short, green and purple; ovary narrow, two inches long; upper sepal one and one-half inches long by five-eighths broad, greenish white, shaded with purple; lower sepal one and one-quarter inches long and one inch broad, purplish; petals two inches long and half an inch broad, pointed, once twisted, purplish, much darker toward the acute ends; lip roundish, inflated, one and one-half inches long and nearly one inch broad, dark purple, shaded and veined with the darkest purple and spotted in the inside; staminode slightly reniform, purplish. This beautiful hybrid was raised by Mr. Seden (in whose honor it was named) for Messrs. Veitch & Son of London, England, and was the first hybrid of the *selenipedium* section. It is a good acquisition to our culture, being free growing and free flowering; indeed it is seldom out of flower when the plant is strong and well grown. Generally this plant is grown too warm, which is a great mistake; the intermediate house, with a temperature of 50° to 60°, is the most suitable for it, and the cooler it is grown the deeper will be the color of the flowers and richer the green of the leaves. Peat, sphagnum moss and a few potsherds are the best material for growing this plant; ample pot room and good drainage are also indispensable for its well being. It should be in every collection, however small.

Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, Mass.

#### Orchid Hints.

At this season of the year orchids should have little water; just enough to keep them from shriveling. Remove the shade from the glass, if it is not already done, so as to give the plants all the advantage of plenty of sun and air during bright weather, to ripen up the growths.

The winter flowering dendrobiums, such as noble and Wardenium, as soon as they have finished their growth, should be put into a cool house—a carnation house will do first rate—and watered just enough to keep the bulbs plump until their buds are well advanced; when they may be removed to warmer quarters, and more water given to open the flowers; although the blooms will have more color if allowed to open in a cool house.

*Peristeria elata*—Dove flower—will have completed its growth on those plants which flowered in summer, and these should be kept moderately warm and little water given; if watered too much during their resting season, the bulbs will "spot" or perhaps rot altogether; the plants which flowered late should still be kept warm and watered, to enable them to finish up their growth as soon as possible.

*Calanthe Veitchii* and other deciduous sorts will now be doing growing and losing their leaves as they come into bloom; they should still receive a moderate supply of water to develop the flowers properly; after they are done flowering they should be set in a cool place and given very little water until they begin to grow in the spring. By keeping some of the plants in a cool place after the flower spikes are well advanced, a succession of graceful spikes of bloom may be had for cutting for a couple of months or more. The *calanthe* is a most useful orchid, either in making arrangements wholly of orchid blooms or to use with other loose cut flowers.

*Odontoglossum Alexandræ* (*crispum*) and varieties will be showing flower spikes as they finish their growth, and a vigorous hunt for slugs and snails will be in order at night with the lantern. To prevent the pests from eating the tender spikes, the pots may be set on inverted flower pots placed in saucers to be kept filled with water, and a bit of cotton may be put around the bottom of the shoots, which prevents the slugs from crawling up. *Odontoglossum crispum* and *Od. Pescatorei*, which flowers later, need to be syringed freely at all seasons, and should have a plentiful supply of fresh air, even if a little fire heat has to be kept up to allow the ventilators being opened.

Malden, Mass. BENJ. GREY.

#### Notes and Comments.

The Puritan seems to be something of a disappointment in the cut flower trade. It does not sell. The reason for its unsalability does not seem very clear, but the commission men cannot dispose of it readily, and do not look very favorably on the rose in consequence. No one finds fault with its creamy petals and fine foliage, but the shape is not admired, and the prices realized by it are unsatisfactory. Some of the critics find fault with the habit of the foliage, though it was specially recommended when it made its debut for the way in which the foliage grows clear up to the flower. But these upper leaves are awkward in shape, and the flower is very apt to be malformed. Perhaps we have not yet gained its confidence sufficiently to know how to grow it properly. One grower says it seems

likely to be more satisfactory when grown on rapidly with plenty of heat. This will certainly make it softer, but it may grow out of its objectionable habits. The first flowers shown of the Puritan were better specimens than most of those we see now.

Assuredly, we need force a rose for several seasons before we really know how to treat it. If we overwork it or otherwise abuse it, there is sure to be trouble. Undoubtedly the frequent failure of the sturdy *Perle* was due to overwork in some cases and over-feeding in others.

The New York Florists' Club has decided to admit ladies as members. At the last meeting Mr. May read a suggestive paper on the centralization of the cut flower trade, which was followed by a general discussion. The question of a flower market in New York has often been debated, but practical men find as many reasons against the project as in its favor. When the attempt was made, a few years ago, to establish such a market on Twenty-eighth street, it was soon abandoned as a failure; the buyers and sellers who were accustomed to go to the ferry continued to do so, and ignored the floricultural barn which was to be a trans-Atlantic Covent Garden. In any case, the American flower trade is so different in needs and methods from the same business abroad, that it would be impossible to follow foreign systems very closely. And we are likely to worry along in our present methods for some years to come, notwithstanding the example of Covent Garden. Some one is pretty sure to suggest the old reservoir on Forty-second street as a site for the flower market; that forlorn piece of architecture has been proposed as a site for almost every public building started in the last ten years.

What is the truth about chrysanthemums—as cut flowers, do they pay? Of course every grower must have them, but looking at their amazing cheapness, as they are sold on the street and everywhere else, one is forced to the conclusion that they must be grown in tremendous quantities to be at all remunerative. One grower says that a crop of Mrs. C. H. Wheeler paid better than the same area in roses. That recalls the remark of another grower, who said plaintively that he liked chrysanthemums, but he didn't like their effect on roses. Whether it is a waning craze or not, there is plenty of vitality in it yet, and the autumn flower trade without chrysanthemums would be Hawley with Henry Irving left out. And there is no doubt that the numerous shows help the retail plant trade. Every woman with a 16 x 20 garden decides that she is going to fill it with chrysanthemums or "artimishals," and she fully expects to produce a mass of such flowers as we see on disbudbed plants.

Speaking of flower shows, why can't we have a special class of exhibits, open only to employes of florists or growers, analogous to the premiums for gentlemen's gardeners only? Whether for plants or designs, there is little doubt that such a premium would call out competition. There are many ambitious workers who would come under this heading, and since the employes of to-day are likely to be the florists and growers of the future, anything that will arouse their interest and ambition is beneficial to the trade at large. No doubt the horticultural society would be perfectly willing to offer such a premium if some horticultural Samaritan will just step forward and present it.

MENDOTA, ILL.—Florist B. Moss was burned out Monday, Oct. 31. The loss was total.