

THE  
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

VOL. XXVI.—NEW SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1886.

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GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

Established 1841.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.—On and after January 1, 1887, the Price of the "Gardeners' Chronicle" will be REDUCED TO THREE PENCE.

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Catalogue 1887. JACOB WRENCH AND SONS have now Posted their 1887 CATALOGUE OF GARDEN and other SEEDS to all their Customers. Another will be sent by return on receipt of advice of its not having come to hand. 39, King William Street, London Bridge, E.C.

ORCHIDS a SPECIALTY.—Stock immense in extent, fine in quality, and moderate in price. Inspection invited. HUGH LOW AND CO., Clapton Nursery, London, E.

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Rhododendrons JOHN WATERER AND SONS, Bagshot, Surrey, are the Great Exhibitors of Hardy Scarlet and White RHODODENDRONS. Their CATALOGUE is ready, and may be had on application.

A Specialty. RHODODENDRONS, grown in sandy loam.—Thousands of Rhododendron poticum, catalpa, hybridum, and all the choicest named varieties. Magnificent plants, 1, 2, to 3 feet, beautifully set with buds. Price per dozen, hundred, or thousand, on application to JOHN CRANSTON & CO., King's Acre Nurseries, Hereford.

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TEN LARGE CAMELLIAS, very fine, full of flower-buds, in pots and tubs, 6 to 30 feet, specimens—Apply to WILLIAM BARON, Nurseryman, Sixtly, Swanscombe.

To the Trade. PETER LAWSON AND SON (Limited), Edinburgh, having harvested their Crops of TURNIP, MANGEL, and most kinds of GARDEN SEEDS in fine condition, will be glad to make Special Offers of the same.—Also Samples and Quotations of PERENNIAL and ITALIAN RYE-GRASSES and NATURAL GRASSES—to their Friends upon application.

VINES.—VINES.—VINES.—Black Hamburgh and other Fruiting Vines, 5s. and 7s. 6d. each. All in splendid condition. CATALOGUES on application. THE LIVERPOOL HORTICULTURAL CO. (John Cowan) Limited, The Vineyard, Garston, Liverpool.

HAMPTON COURT BLACK HAMBURGH VINE.—Extra strong Fruiting Canes of the above, and all other leading varieties, at greatly reduced prices. T. JACKSON AND SON, Nurserymen, Kingston-on-Thames, and Royal Kitchen Gardens, Hampton Court.

APPLE, "BISMARCK"—We have much pleasure in offering strong Trees of this fine Apple, which was awarded a First-class Certificate at the Crystal Palace Fruit Show, 1885. Maiden Trees, 5s. each; Fruiting Trees, prices on application. Our stock of Trained PEACHES and NECTARINES is exceptionally fine. Inspection invited. JOHN LAING AND CO., Nurserymen, Forest Hill, S.E.

MESSRS. GREGORY AND EVANS, NURSERYMEN, Sidcup, and 285, 286, 287, 288, Flower Market, Covent Garden, W.C., are open to receive CONSIGNMENTS of Choice CUT FLOWERS in any quantity, for their Commission Department. Boxes and Labels supplied. TELEGRAPH ADDRESS—"Commission, Sidcup."

Floral Commission Agency. A. HILL AND CO., 52, Hart Street, Covent Garden, W.C., are open to receive CONSIGNMENTS of Choice CUT FLOWERS in any quantity. A. H. & Co., giving personal attention to all consignments, are thus enabled to obtain the highest market prices. All Cheques for forwarded weekly. Bankers and good Trade references. Boxes and Labels supplied. Growers wishing to Dispose of the following to advantage, should communicate with WISE AND RIDES, Covent Garden, W.C. :—Aurum LILIES, and the BEST EUCARIAS TUBE-ROSES, good White CHRYSANTHEMUMS, LILY OF THE VALLEY, and other Choice CUT BLOOMS; also good GRAPES.

Notice to senders of Out Flowers. WANTED, in any quantity, Choice CUT FLOWERS, for the London Account Sales sent daily. C. LAWRENCE, Office 6A, Vineyard, Drury Lane, London, W.C.

MESSRS. HURST AND SON beg to state that their General CATALOGUES OF GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS have been Posted to all their Customers, and if any have not received them, they will be glad to be informed of it and copies shall be at once sent. 152, Houndsditch, London, E.—December 17, 1886.

Dissolution of Partnership. JOHN R. BOX, for ten years partner with JOHN LAING, at Forest Hill, now trades at East Surrey Seed Warehouse (established upwards of 50 years), North End, Croydon; also the Upper Footing Park and Dalham Hill Nurseries. CATALOGUES now ready.

Notice. King's Acre Nurseries, Hereford (Established 1835). JOHN CRANSTON begs to announce that, having PURCHASED THE BUSINESS, together with the most valuable portion of the stock, from "Cranston's Nursery & Seed Company (Limited)," these Old-established Nurseries will, on and after NOVEMBER 2, 1886, be carried on by him under the name of "JOHN CRANSTON AND CO." King's Acre, Hereford.—October 1, 1886.

OUR SPECIAL IRIS LIST, No. 85; containing all that is best and most beautiful; offering great advantages to the purchaser. NEW PLANT and BULB COMPANY, Lion Walk, Colchester.

LILIAM AURATUM.—Good, plump, sound Bulbs, 6s., 9s., 12s., 18s., and 24s. per dozen; extra strong, 30s. and 42s. per dozen. All other good LILIES at equally low prices. Mr. WILLIAM BULL'S Establishment for New and Rare Plants, 536, King's Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.

SPIREAE JAPONICA, fine Imported Clumps, 12s. 6d. per 100. LILY OF THE VALLEY (German Crowns), very fine. Low offers on application. WATKINS AND SIMPSON, Seed and Bulb Merchants, Exeter Street, Strand, W.C.

ROSES.—ROSES.—ROSES.—The finest Dwarf plants of the leading Exhibition varieties, 4s. 6d. per dozen, package included. Special prices for quantities. The Trade supplied. A. U. GORRINGE, 75, Terminus Road, Eastbourne.

To the Trade. NUTTING AND SONS' Wholesale CATALOGUE OF GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS for 1887 has been Posted to all their Customers. If not duly received please inform them, and another shall be sent. 105, Southwark Street, London, S.E.

To the Trade. WAITE, NASH AND CO. have Posted their General CATALOGUE to all their Customers. If not received another copy will be forwarded on application. 79, Southwark Street, London, S.E.

THE GOLDEN LARCH (PSEUDOLARIX KAEMPERI). Good Seed is offered at the following rates for cash:—1000 seeds for 2s. 6d.; 5000 seeds for 10s.; 10000 seeds for 20s. FRATELLI ROVELLI, Nurserymen, Pallanza, Italy.

Special Offer to the Trade. ROSES in extra strong dwarf Plants of the leading varieties at 20s. per 100, 18s. per 1000, own selection. A. U. GORRINGE, 75, Terminus Road, Eastbourne.

To the Trade. ROBERT COOPER has now Posted his General Wholesale CATALOGUE to his Customers. In any case where it may not have arrived, another will be forwarded on application. 95, Southwark Street, S.E.

PRIVET.—A Large Stock of exceedingly fine bushy oval-leaved Privet, 4 to 6 feet high. Price on application to T. JACKSON AND SON, Nurserymen, Kingston-on-Thames.

H. G. TRENKMANN, Weissenfels, on the Saale, Germany, Raiser of fine FLOWER SEEDS, offers the same at the cheapest prices. A CATALOGUE sent, post-free, on application. Putney, London, S.W.

WILLIAM ICETON begs to inform the Trade that he has a very fine Collection of all the leading PALMS and FOLIAGE PLANTS, at reasonable rates.

SPECIAL OFFER. PINUS AUSTRIACA, 2 to 3 feet, 3 to 4 1/2 feet; extra fine and good root, from 20s. to 75s. per 100. GOLDEN EUCONYMUS, splendid colour, best variety, in pots, from 10s. to 20s. per 100; 2s. 6d. to 9s. per dozen. ELCOMBE AND SON, Nurserymen, Romsey, Hampshire.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for Saturday next, DECEMBER 25, 1886, will contain a beautifully COLOURED ALMANAC (18 by 13 inches), from an Original Design.

Price 5d.; Post-free 5 1/2d.; or with Almanac mounted on Oak Rollers, ready to be hung up, and enclosed in Case, 7d.; Post-free, 8 1/2d.

Purchasers are specially recommended to order the Almanac in a Case, to prevent injury from folding. The Publisher cannot be responsible for injury to the Almanac unless it is so protected.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS. As a large Extra Sale of this Number is guaranteed, it will be a very valuable medium for Advertisements. Applications for space should be sent in not later than Tuesday next, the 21st inst.

W. RICHARDS, 41, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.

TO THE TRADE.—JAMES CARTER, DUNNETT and BEALE'S WHOLESALE CATALOGUE OF VEGETABLE SEEDS, FLOWER SEEDS, and SUNDRIES has now been posted to their customers. If not received another copy will be sent on application to 237 and 238, High Holborn, London, W.C.

A Descriptive List of J. LYE'S NEW FUCHSIAS for 1887, now ready. The Gardens, Cliffe Hall, Market Lavington, Wilts.

TO THE TRADE.—GREEN EUCONYMUS, splendid, well-grown stuff, 1 foot 12s.; 1 1/2 foot, 16s.; 2 feet, 25s. per 100; very strong and bushy. A. U. GORRINGE, 75, Terminus Road, Eastbourne.

FRUIT TREES.—Well-ripened clean trees. Best sorts of APPLES, PEARS, PLUMS, and CHERRIES, Standards and Pyramids, 15s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each; Trained, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. each. APRICOTS, NECTARINES, and PEACHES, extra large and fruiting. CATALOGUES gratis. JOHN LAING AND CO., Nurserymen, Forest Hill, S.E.

## New Garden Plants.

CYPRIPEDIUM PRÆSTANS, *Rehb. f. n. sp.\**

A MOST unexpected surprise. I have before me a living plant, a fine peduncle bearing five flowers and buds, and a single flower, beautifully preserved in alcohol. It is of Papuan origin, and was kindly sent to me by Messrs. Lioden. When looking at the contents of the mighty bottle, full of varieties and novelties in company with smaller ones, I thought of *Cypripedium glanduliferum*, Blume. It is, however, not that species, as both my herbarium and the *Rumphia* show distinctly that Blume's plant is less vigorous; it has much smaller bracts, quite distinct petals, and last, but not least, a straight stigma. The star-like ornaments on the petals show that it is an associate of the Rev. Mr. Parish's *Cypripedium*.

The leaves of the living plant have all the strong texture and the varnish of those of *Cypripedium lævigatum* and *C. Röbelenii*. The peduncle is very strong, covered with short dark hairs. The inflorescence is five-flowered, and appears to have been pendulous. The spatheaceous bracts are nearly equal to the stalked ovary. The flowers surpass all those of the above-named species, and are nearly as large as those of *Cypripedium grande*. Both sepals are nearly equal, though, curiously enough, the connate one is rather broader. The three median nerves are keeled outside, petals linear-ligulate, very much undulated at the base, as in fine *Methonia* (*Gloriosa*), tapering at the end, surpassing the lip by one-third. The lip has a very long channelled stalk, and has the uncommonly elegant shape of that of *Cypripedium Stonei* itself. The staminoide is like that of *Cypripedium Röbelenii*, exceedingly gibbous at the base, abruptly acuminate at the top, villous on the sides.

The greatest merit of the plant lies in its quite novel stigma, which is broken up, and ascends at right angles like a beak. The stigmatic bodies of *Cypripedium lævigatum* and *C. Röbelenii* are a little ascending at the top, but this one is quite distinct.

I learn from Mons. Lucien Lindén that the plant has its *sepal jaune* and the *sepals striés de brun foncé*. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

OPLISMENUS BURMANNI VAR. ALBIDULUM  
(*new var.*.)

This is a most charming little grass, new, distinct, and pretty, which has been recently introduced from India by Messrs. Veitch & Sons. It is a variety of the common and widely spread *O. Burmanni*, and differs from the well known variety *variegatum* (or *Panicum variegatum*, as it is often called in gardens) by its dwarfier and more compact habit and differently coloured foliage. The stems are rather stouter, more erect, and far less straggling than in the variety *variegatum*, and the leaves are white with a pale green stripe or ill-defined area along the midrib. I am informed that the plant comes true from seed; in the white foliage is charming, and being of quick growth and compact habit this pretty little grass is likely to become a useful and desirable decorative plant. *N. E. Brown.*

### EDWARD PYNÆERT.

MANY of our readers, frequenters of the Ghent "Quinquennials," and others, will be glad to see the *vera effigies* of M. Pynæert (on opposite page), whose quarter of a century of service as Professor in the State School of Horticulture at Ghent, was celebrated, as recorded by us at the time, with so much spirit a short time since.

\* *Cypripedium præstans*.—Foliis coriaceis ligulatis apice minutissime inaequali-bilibis, inferius sub nervo medio carinatis, ultra pediculus, ultra duos pollices latis, nitidissimis; pedunculo pilosulo plurifloro, racemoso (quinquefloro); bracteis spatheaceis carinatis (apice tridentatis), ovaria pedicellata leviter subsequantibus, sepalis levigatis, sepalis impari oblongo-ligulato acuto supra nervum medianum carinato, sepalis paribus subaequalibus bicarinatis; tepalibus deflexis linearibus demum angustioribus labellum superantibus, basi energeticè undulatis, hinc mar. inibus basin versus pilosulis; labelli ungue canaliculiformi elongato, calice obtuse conico abrupto; staminoideo basi valde gibbo lanceo acuminato lateribus piloso; stigmati triangulari sub angulo recto flexo adscendente. Ex. Lus. Papp; introd. cl. Lindén, *H. G. Rehb. f.*

## MARKET-PLANTS.

MIGNONETTE.—The immense quantity of Mignonette grown annually for market purposes proves that it is one of the most popular of flowering plants; although there is a certain demand for it throughout the year, it is during the early spring and summer months that it is most wanted, being then used for purposes of every description.

A few years ago there was scarcely any that sold more readily than Mignonette, but during the last three or four years the supply has been quite equal to the demand, and a considerable improvement has been observed in its culture. In growing Mignonette for market, to secure a profitable return it must be well grown—that is, it must be dwarf, with fresh green foliage down to the pots, with stout, sturdy spikes of bloom. If a regular succession be kept up—say, from early in March to the end of June—a fair average price may be relied upon, though perhaps during the time there may be a glut, when the price may fall very low. I have known really first-class stuff to be sold for 3s. 6d. per dozen pots, and it may have been sold for considerably less than this; but a fair average price is from 5s. to 9s. per dozen, and anything extra good may fetch 12s. per dozen, especially early in the season.

It is to the late Mr. Parsons, of Brighton, that we are indebted for the first great improvement in the varieties of Mignonette. He was also one of the most successful cultivators of his time. It was with my father, who was nursery manager to Mr. Parsons, that I commenced my gardening career, and from that time I have always taken a great interest in this fragrant, though unassuming flower. I will remember the first plant that was selected, from which, after several years' selection "Parson's White," *Keseda odorata eximia*, was obtained; this was a great improvement on any other variety grown at that time. It was exhibited at South Kensington in the spring of 1870, and was awarded a First-class Certificate, it also obtained several other first-class awards the same season. It is now difficult to obtain a new strain of this variety. Its chief characters were the whiteness of the flowers, which was caused by an almost entire absence of stamens (the anthers of which give the colour in other varieties); and an unusual development of the petals, the individual flowers being more than twice the size of those of any ordinary variety, the spikes of bloom of great length, and the plant of vigorous habit.

Miles' Spiral is another good variety; this originated with Mr. Miles, of West Brighton; the stock was obtained from one plant, which came up among a batch of the dwarf red Continental variety, *ameliorata*. I saw the parent plant of this variety, and I may say I have never seen a finer spike of bloom on so dwarf a plant as that produced. In the collection that was grown for trial at Chiswick a few years ago this proved to be one of the best for pot work, being dwarf in habit and producing fine bold spikes of bloom. Although this was received from several firms, there was but little variation, which is more than could be said of some of the varieties. *Vilmorin's* pyramidalis grandiflora, is one of the best for market work; it is dwarf in habit, of vigorous growth, and produces stout, though rather short spikes of bloom. In this variety the stamens are numerous, and the reddish-brown anthers are very conspicuous. *Matchet* is a newer variety, producing immense spikes of bloom; it is one of the best for market work. *Golden Queen*, or *ameliorata aurea*, is another very distinct variety, of dwarf habit; in this variety the anthers are yellow; it is very pretty as a variety, but of no value for market purposes.

Besides the varieties above mentioned, there are many others offered, some of which are distinct. In referring to two catalogues that happen to be at hand, I find in one twelve varieties, all enumerated, while in the other there were eight; and as the same names occur in only four instances it would signify sixteen varieties. I think that some of the names given are misleading, such as *Crimson Giant*, *Pyramidal Bouquet*, *Crimson Queen*, &c. As far as I have seen, these varieties are very little better than the ordinary form, and certainly do not merit the names applied to them.

All the varieties of Mignonette are liable to considerable variation, and it requires great care in saving the seed to secure a true strain, especially where there are several varieties grown together. Where a batch of any variety is intended for seed, it

should be grown in an isolated position, and as they come into flower they should be gone through and any of inferior quality pulled out, otherwise the stock will soon deteriorate.

### CULTURE.

The best position for growing pot-Mignonette is in pits or frames, and as one great point is to keep it as dwarf as possible, the closer to the glass it can be kept the better; it is also necessary that the glass should be kept clean. In preparing a range of pits for Mignonette it is a good plan to have them in three sections, the first to be filled up, so that when the seed-pots are plunged they are within 3 or 4 inches of the glass; by the time the plants require more room they may be transferred to the second section, which should be a little deeper; here they may remain until they require tying, when they should be placed in the third section, which should be deep enough for the plants to remain until they come into flower and are fit for market. A regular succession may be kept up by filling the first section of the pit in two separate sowings, the second to be made about the time the first is beginning to show the second leaves; by following on with successive sowings each section may be kept filled up, and a regular supply obtained.

In preparing the seed-pots they should be well drained, and it is a good plan to mix a little soot with the drainage. The compost for filling the pots may consist of good maiden loam, with a little well-rotted manure added, or, what is often used by market growers, any old potting soil, with a little manure added; provided the soil be fairly rich and not too heavy, anything that is at hand may be used, care should be taken, however, that it is free from worms as possible. In filling the pots the soil should be pressed as firmly as possible, and the seed should be well covered with soil.

For early spring work the seed should be sown in the autumn—say, about the beginning of September—and throughout the winter it should only have sufficient warmth to keep the frost off. The first spring sowing may be made about the middle of February. That sown in the autumn as well as that sown early in the year requires great care to keep it healthy until the days get longer and the weather brighter; the main thing is to avoid it getting drawn and weakly.

### THINNING-OUT, WATERING, &c.

As soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle they should be thinned out, leaving from six to nine plants in a pot. Six plants will be quite enough to fill a 48-sized pot, but it is best not to thin too closely at first, in case of a few plants damping off.

Watering is one of the most important matters connected with the culture of Mignonette. Great care must be taken not to get the pots too wet, especially during the earlier stages; as the plants get more advanced and the pots full of roots it is necessary to guard against the other extreme; either excess is very damaging, if not fatal, at any time. As soon as the roots get round the pots, liquid manure may be used, beginning by using it weak, and using it more freely as the plants advance.

Ventilation must always be given freely, and no artificial heat used except to keep out frost. *A. Hensley.*

## THE SEED TRADE.

THE PEA CROP.—The Pea crops have not turned out so satisfactorily as the trade were led to suppose they would two months ago. The early deliveries were generally of a decidedly assuring character, but later ones show that the main crop and late varieties have unfortunately in not a few instances suffered very much indeed. Especially does this appear to be the condition of things in the Lincolnshire district, where, although there was at one time the promise of good crops, a very large portion is found to have been damaged by the rains which fell before the seed Peas were in a condition to be harvested. And this is applicable equally to the round as to the wrinkled varieties. The fact that the harvest was later than usual, owing to the retarding character of the spring and early summer, has greatly operated against a successful result.

At present but few seeds excepting Peas and Beans have come to hand, and the deliveries are later than usual from the cause just named. Small seeds such as Cabbages, Broccolis, Kales, &c., promise to be a fair average. Fine open weather is now badly wanted,