

THE
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

VOL. XX.—NEW SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1883.

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GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

Established 1841.

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Less trees have been more effective in landscapes, to take another example—the *Araucaria imbricata*. Doubtless this is partly owing to its peculiar structure and outline. But the tree has been robbed of any merit it may possess for the formation of landscape by being dotted or avened out of all its artistic merit. Groups of these of considerable size, planted so closely as to allow interlacing of their branches, and then growing up into a mass, would furnish a new feature in not a few landscapes which are now more or less marred and spoiled by the isolated character and repellent habit of *Araucarias* dotted all over it. Thus treated the trees are in the landscape, but not of it, and never can add a single factor to its enrichment, or better or more distinct furnishing.

These two examples are chosen, not because they have any special merit as landscape trees, but rather because they are familiar to most readers. The same rule applies to all trees and shrubs. For the formation of effective landscapes the groups should, as much as possible, be composed of one species or variety of trees. Sufficient mass of one colour or form to fill the eye at one time may be said to be essential to the formation or enjoyment of the most pleasing landscapes. Where the form and colour are ever changing there can be no rest or repose, and consequently no artistic satisfaction, nor real pleasure. Most landscapes of moderate size are more or less marred or ruined by variety; there is too much and too many sorts crowded in. Not a few of them resemble a picture—all colour; they have neither shade nor repose in them. Half-a-dozen or so of groups, each formed of but one variety, would, be far more effective than the twenty, thirty, fifty or a hundred separate and distinct trees or shrubs. These not seldom remind one far more of a rare show than of a well-furnished, satisfying landscape.

New Garden Plants.

ZYGOPETALUM BURKEI, n. sp.*

A VERY interesting plant, discovered by Sir Robert Schomburgk more than forty years ago in Demerara, as is proved by the itinerary records of this traveller kept at the British Museum. Specimens, however, appear to have been lost altogether, provided they are not mislaid and come one day to light. It is well known that a great part of Sir R. Schomburgk's treasures was lost *en route*. Lately the plant has appeared with Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, having been rediscovered by Mr. Burke, a well-doing traveller, as I learn from Mr. Harry Veitch, who requested that the plant might bear the name of its collector.

These first flowers are only two-thirds the size of what they will become later. Sepals and petals of finest darkest blackish-purple inside, with green signatures, partly linear, partly hieroglyphical, quite green outside. Lip white. The calyx on the base, however, has thirteen purple ribs, which makes a very pretty effect.

The column is of light whitish-green, with numerous dark purple longitudinal lines in front, but with no hairs at all.

The linear auriculæ to the column, the very thick leaves, and the nearly tetragonous shining bulb, exceeding 2 inches in length, are very peculiar. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM RÖBBELENII, n. sp.

It is a great surprise to receive what appears a neighbour and rival species to *Cyripedium philippinense*, *Rehb. f., Bonpl., x., 1862, p. 335*, better known in the horticultural circles under the name of *Cyripedium levigatum*, *Bat.*, and which was very

accurately represented in Sir William Hooker's *Botanical Magazine* by Mr. Walter Fitch.

The fresh plant (species or very aberrant variety—we know not which) is an epicurean creature, since it lives only on the borders of the finest limpid rivulets, drinking in idyllic peace, by the aid of its long roots, the murmuring water! There it was seen without the usual companion of *Cyripedium philippinense*, *Vanda linochiloides* (*Bateman*) by Herr Röbbelen, the Swiss collector, who first visited the Philippine Islands for Mr. F. Sander.

My poor materials consist of three single dried flowers, sent in a letter to Herr Consul Kienast Zölly, of Zurich, who kindly sent them to me. I recommend heartily to Herr Röbbelen the method of drying specimens practised, after Mr. F. Sander's instructions and orders, by Mr. Förstermann. Then Mr. Pfau, of Chiswick, sent me two fresh leaves; and last, not least, a fresh peduncle, with a freshly expanded flower, no doubt developed in the case, bent like a shoot of an *Asparagus* grown in a glass bottle. The marks on which I rely in adopting Herr Röbbelen's view about the distinction are the following:—The leaves are narrower. The peduncle is more hairy. The upper sepal is narrow, with nearly equal transverse diameters, whitish, with five long and three very short dark purple nerval lines. The under sepal is purplish-white, with some microscopic purple spots on the base and longer than the calceolar lip. The hooded staminode has a small apiculus between its two anterior teeth.

The stigmatic body has a long apiculus, bent upwards as the trunk of an elephant is sometimes.

To these remarks I may add, that the lip is light yellow, and the staminode is light ochre without the least vestige of those longitudinal and transverse green markings which look so charming in *Cyripedium philippinense*. Colours are, however, much subject to variation, and it would be dangerous to speak positively about those which must have been developed in a most probably dark case.

Will all these marks keep constant? No one can stand for them altogether. *Qui vivat verat.* It would, however, be very surprising, if the majority of the marks do not prove constant, as we cannot expect the plant to be a summary of all possible aberrations, as old veterinary books used to show a horse suffering from all diseases and shortcomings at once. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

THE PEACH WALL AT DITTON PARK.

WE have occasionally made reference to the excellence of the culture of stone fruits on open walls as practised at Ditton Park, Slough, by a veteran gardener, Mr. Lindsay, and something in accord with the spirit of the old proverb about the proof of the pudding, &c., now present on an illustration of a portion of the Peach wall in these gardens (fig. 120), taken at the end of August by Messrs. Runcible Brothers, photographers, of Eton, whilst the trees were laden with fruit. Unfortunately, owing to the strong reflective power of the luxuriant glossy leafage as compared with that of the fruit, the latter does not stand out so clearly as could be desired; but our readers may accept our assurance that every tree in the gardens, whether Peach or Nectarine—and there are many such as are represented—were fully laden with very fine fruits, such as would have done credit to any garden in the kingdom. The three trees seen in the picture speak for themselves, and better display the grand way in which the wall is covered than would one having a far longer perspective. These three trees cover a length of exactly 56 feet of wall, the which is clear 10 feet in height, and in point of health, vigour, and fruitfulness could not be excelled. The one in the foreground is an Elruge Nectarine nine years planted; the second is a Noblesse Peach, and the third Walburton Admirable Peach. On the wall immediately to the left of the part shown in the picture is a Lord Palmerston Peach, five years planted, that carried nearly twelve dozen of grand fruits, and next year will quite cover its allotted space of wall. Belle Bosc, Violette Hâtive, and Barrington, are also huge trees, covering the wall completely and fruiting well.

It is one of the most conclusive proofs of the excellence of Mr. Lindsay's culture and general treatment of his trees that he seldom misses a crop; indeed, last year, when Peaches were generally thin, he had a heavier crop than this year, though the past season

has been most productive. Though the illustration represents a portion of the outer garden wall, yet there are some noble trees within the garden, and notably a Walburton Admirable, 7 yards in length, that covers the wall from top to bottom. The old Buckingham Mignonne is represented by a fine tree, 18 feet by 10 feet high, and though said to be the same as the Barrington, is here found to be earlier. It carried a grand crop. A Lord Palmerston, now 10 feet by 9 feet high, transplanted in the spring, carried, in spite of its removal, a splendid lot of fruit. The earliest kind grown is Early Louise, which does well; and the latest is the Salway, the which, a fine tree, keeps its fruits well into November, and ripens as well as the Salway ever does outdoors. Whilst the not uninteresting matter of size of flower may present itself to some readers' minds, it is a fact that at Ditton little heed is paid to that subject, but that kinds are grown that exhibit comparative hardness. Perhaps it is because gardeners have not sufficiently considered that important feature in outdoor Peaches that so many failures have resulted. In any case good drainage and culture are more relied upon here for the production of good crops of fruit than spring coverings, of which but little is used. In natural advantages we do not see that Ditton possesses any beyond what are found in most southern gardens.

TRUFFLES.

I AM sorry to find that English "Truffle-hunters and their dogs" are described in last week's *Gardeners' Chronicle* as "alike extinct," and that, so far at least as England is concerned, "the art of gathering" these savoury tubers must be classed among "forgotten or forsaken industries." Nor, although M. Chatin is still hopeful, does any real progress appear to have been made in their scientific cultivation. Yet it is not for want of trying. Half a century ago Loudon devoted an entire number of the *Gardeners' Magazine* (then published only on alternate months) to this unctuous subject; but the article bred no Truffles. Some twenty years later Mr. Disney and Dr. Lindley took the matter up, and with no better success. But now that the parasitic habits of this redoubtable fungus are better understood we may cease to wonder at the failure of all attempts to cultivate it away from its natural haunts; nay, we might as well expect to find forced *Rafflesias* in Covent Garden Market as baskets of the black Truffles of Perigord artificially produced. But are all the species equally intractable? Can nothing be done with the white Truffle of Piedmont, about which your correspondent "Dodman" (the late Mr. Bellenden Kerr, of whom more anon) used to discourse so pleasantly in your columns? I am not aware that it exclusively affects the woods. Then there is the African Truffle (*Terfezia*), which is plentiful in the neighbourhood of Mogadore, and which Mr. Berkeley says—and from his verdict there is no appeal—is even better than the white! Again, Mr. and Lady Aone Blunt met with what they describe as a Truffle, though evidently not hypogeous, and which is so abundant in certain parts of Mesopotamia that the Arabs identify it with the manna on which the Israelites subsisted in the wilderness! (*Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates*: London, 1879.) As the "feathered fowls" (erroneously rendered "quails" in the A. V.) which the heaveous "rained as the sand of the sea" (*Psalms lxxxviii, v. 28*) were most probably red geese, we must not be surprised to hear some day that the chosen people feasted upon *foie gras*! This, however, by the way.

And now with your permission, I will rehearse the story of a Truffle hunt, of which I happened to be chief promoter, and which your own most interesting article has vividly recalled to my recollection. Possibly it may suggest some new ideas. Nor is it improbable that among your numerous readers there may be some who formed a part of "the field" on this notable occasion; if so, I am sure they will thank me for reviving the memory of a very pleasant day spent (towards the end of February, 1869) in the "Department" of "Les Alpes Maritimes." We, *i.e.*, myself and family, had established ourselves for the winter at the Hôtel Bellevue, Cannes, where the frequent appearance of Truffles, very fresh and very good, naturally suggested the proximity of a Truffle country. Then why not have a day's hunting? This, however, was not the easy matter I supposed, for the Oak coppices where the Truffles grew were as zealously watched as a Cran-

* *Zygotepetalum Burkei*, n. sp.—Pseudotulbo tetragono costis obscuris solitariis inter angulos, triphyllis; foliis pergamenocoriaceis; pedunculo plurifloro (ad 5); sepalis subbilabiatis, lateralibus deflexis, margine interno supra involutis; tepalibus subaequalibus; labello breve oviculato, ante unguem utrinque auriculato, dein ligulato antice dilatato obtusato; callo inter auriculas 13 jugo; columna utrinque apice lineari auriculata.—Demerara, Robert Schomburgk, Burke! (Viv. mis. cl. Veitch.) *H. G. Rehb. f.*