

December 27, 1873.]

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GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

AND

*M. D. ...
...all*

AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE

FOR

1873.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS,

AT 41, WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

1873.

THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE AND AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE.

No. 9.—1873.]

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T. JACKSON and SON, Nurseries, Kingston, Surrey.

limits of age are from 30 to 45, and the salary is £130 per annum, together with apartments in Hampton Court Palace. Persons desirous of being candidates for this appointment should make immediate application in writing, accompanied by testimonials, to the Secretary, Her Majesty's Office of Works, &c., 12, Whitehall Place, S.W., as the appointment is to be filled up forthwith.

The Council of the ROYAL SOCIETY are about to nominate Dr. HOOKER, Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, as President of the Society, in succession to the Astronomer-Royal (Sir GEORGE AIRY), who, as will be remembered, has announced his intention of retiring from the chair at the Society's anniversary in November next.

Some short time since we announced that Mr. CARMICHAEL, late of Sandringham, had been appointed to Hampton Court, as superintendent of the gardens. It now appears that this announcement was premature. Mr. CARMICHAEL had obtained the recommendation of his late Royal employer and other friends, and was accepted by the Board of Works, subject to the consent of the Civil Service Commissioners. This body were satisfied as to Mr. CARMICHAEL'S ability and testimonials, but curtly refused him on the score of age—Mr. CARMICHAEL, though in the prime of life, being a few years older than the assigned limit. We cannot look upon this, however legal, as at all wise policy in the present case. If Mr. CARMICHAEL had been an unknown and untried man, the Commissioners would have been justified, but in the present instance they might well have exercised the discretionary power which we believe they have, and secured the services of so well-known and competent a man. Free and open competition is, no doubt, an excellent thing, but hard and fast lines are frequently very objectionable. Looking at Mr. CARMICHAEL'S status in the gardening world, however, we cannot but hope that some post more worthy of his abilities than Hampton Court would have been, may speedily be found for him.

The following letter was received a few days ago by the Mayor of Manchester:—

"Buckingham Palace, Feb. 27, 1873.

"Sir,—I have had the honour of submitting your letter to the QUEEN, and am desired to notify to you that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to become Patron of the Manchester International Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Exhibition, proposed to be held next September; and I am also to signify that Her Majesty desires to subscribe £25 towards the undertaking.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) "THOS. BIDDULPH.

"The Mayor of Manchester, &c."

We have received from the Secretary of the Bath Hanoverian Band and Floral Fête Committee the Schedule of Prizes for the FLORAL FÊTES for the year 1873. These will take place at the SYDNEY GARDENS, BATH, on Wednesday, May 14, and Wednesday and Thursday, September 3 and 4.

At a meeting of the Council of the ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, held last Saturday, Lord ALFRED HERVEY, V.P., in the chair, estimates were agreed to for building a new and extensive range of houses for preserving the rapidly-increasing collection of economic plants possessed by the Society, and for generally improving this important department.

From a current number of *Chambers' Journal*, which contains an interesting sketch of "Recollections of Fashionable Life," by Lady CLEMENTINA DAVIES, we gather the following scrap of information respecting the life of a lady whose name once stood high amongst the patrons of horticulture. The *naïveté* and perfectly unconscious *abandon* with which her ladyship retails her gossip is quite charming, and removes it entirely out of the region of scandal.

"Mrs. L—, of E— Park, was always to be seen everywhere, no matter what difficulty much more exalted personages experienced in getting invitations. She was at the marriage of PAUL ÉSTERHAZY with Lady SARAH WILLIERS—the prince who dropped a hundred pounds' worth of diamonds from his jewelled attire whenever he went to a ball—and saw everything, although the crowd was so great. This, however, she contrived to do by getting into the pulpit. To obtain an invitation to Lady LONDONDERRY'S ball required great tact. 'How did you do it?' asked a friend. Mrs. L— hesitated considerably before answering the question, but at last replied, 'Well, I'll tell you. The morning of that ball I sent her ladyship a large van full of the most beautiful flowers, and she was so delighted with them that she sent me back a most pressing invitation to come and see how well my flowers looked at night.' 'My garden is my life,' she added, 'and I never rob that for anybody,' but for £25 spent in Covent Garden she found that she could be asked out whenever she pleased."

The skill in these matters evinced by Mrs. L— is, however, exceeded by that of a certain "City Man," who, in order to secure the honour of the company of certain distinguished men to his dinners, would forward a polite invite to the Duke of WELLINGTON to meet Marshal SOULT, and to the Marshal to meet the Duke, although unacquainted with either of them, for he knew that both of these illustrious warriors were so fond of "fighting their battles o'er again" with one another that they were sure to accept; and then he

invited people to meet Marshal SOULT and the Duke of WELLINGTON.

We have received from the Hon. Secretary of the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY of LIVERPOOL the Schedule of Prizes for the 11th exhibition of Hyacinths and Spring Flowers, which is to be held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Wednesday, March 19.

The following are Mr. GLAISHER'S remarks on the STATE of the WEATHER during the week ending February 22:—In the vicinity of London the reading of the barometer at sea level at the beginning of the week was about 30.5 inches. A general increase was experienced till mid-day of the 18th, when 30.8 inches was registered, but after that date a steady decrease occurred. From the 4th of the present month to the 21st the mean daily values have all been in excess of the average, at times the departure being near to, and on one occasion above, three-quarters of an inch. This wave of high readings is in striking contrast with the very low values of the preceding months. The weather throughout the week was very dull (gloomy at times) and foggy, with an almost continuously overcast sky. The highest temperatures by day averaged about 36° for the first six days, but rose to 47° on the 22d. The lowest temperatures at night varied between 35½° on the 16th, and 27¾° on the 21st. From the 16th to the 21st the daily ranges of temperature were very small, averaging only 5°, but that for the 22d was 17°. The mean daily temperatures were all in defect of the average, the departures being as follows:—16th, 1°.5; 17th, 4°; 18th, 4°; 19th, 6°.4; 20th, 7°.6; 21st, 9°.5; 22d, 2°.2. A little snow and heavy rain fell on the afternoon and evening of the 22d, the amount measured being nearly one-tenth of an inch. The air was nearly calm for long periods of time from the 16th to the 21st; the direction of the wind was very variable on the 22d, the pressures on the latter day being very light. The mean daily horizontal movements of the air were as follows:—15th, 113; 16th, 52; 17th, 62; 18th, 45; 20th, 88; 21st, 159; and 22d, 245 miles respectively.

In England, the extreme high temperatures ranged from 50° at Birmingham, and 49¾° at Liverpool, to 40½° at Norwich, the general average over the country being 47° nearly. The extreme low temperatures varied from 31° at Leeds to 24¼° at Nottingham, the general average being 27½°. The range of temperature in the week varied between 24° at Nottingham, and 13½° at Norwich. The mean high day temperatures varied from 45½° at Bradford to 37½° at Blackheath and Norwich, with a general average of 41¼°. The mean low night temperatures ranged between 34½° at Bradford and Leeds, and 28¾° at Nottingham and Sheffield, with an average value of 31¼°. The mean daily range of temperature in the week was 10° nearly. The mean temperature for the week was 55°, the highest being at Bradford, 39¾°, and the lowest at Norwich, 33°. Rain fell in small amounts at a few stations, the largest recorded being but eight-hundredths of an inch at Blackheath, and seven-hundredths at Liverpool, the average fall being two-hundredths of an inch. A few flakes of snow fell during the morning of the 22d at Wolverhampton and Liverpool. The weather during the week was dull, foggy, and cloudy, with very little rain over the whole country.

In Scotland the highest temperatures by day ranged from 62½° at Paisley to 47° at Dundee and Glasgow, the general average being 50°. The lowest at night varied between 32½° at Greenock and 24° nearly at Aberdeen; the general average being 27¾°. The mean temperature for the week was 40½°, the highest being at Paisley, 44° nearly, and the lowest at Aberdeen, 37¾°. Rain fell to the amount of one-tenth of an inch at Aberdeen, Greenock, and Paisley; and the average fall was but five-hundredths of an inch.

At Dublin the highest temperature was 55°, the lowest 25¼°, the mean 39¼°, and the rainfall four-hundredths of an inch.

Messrs. PROTHEROE & MORRIS, the well-known auctioneers and estate agents, of Leytonstone, have just started a new HORTICULTURAL REGISTER, which is to be published on the first of every month. The register will contain a list of nurseries, market gardens, farms, florist and seed businesses, to be let or sold; and to those who are desirous of renting or purchasing, an opportunity will be afforded of fully stating their requirements. Firms desirous of taking in a partner, and persons seeking a partnership, will in this way also be enabled readily to obtain the requisite information.

A cry is frequently raised against the EXTINCTION of SPECIES from certain localities by over-zealous collectors, and ever and anon a cry goes up in behalf of some product which by reason of its commercial value is likewise threatened with extinction. Not long since the poor seals found a friend to plead in their behalf, the demand for their skins at the present time being so great that no thought is given as to future supplies. Similar cries are raised from time to time by our Consuls abroad in their reports to the Foreign Office. Thus from Arica in Peru we are told:—

"We must look to a falling off in two very important

articles of export—Peruvian bark and Chinchilla skins. The destruction of the trees for their valuable bark yearly goes on, and no precautions are taken by planting to renew the supply. The chinchillas are hunted at all seasons of the year, and unless some stringent measures are taken by the Bolivian Government to prevent this, the breed will soon become extinct."

Again, from Tabruz, Persia, our Consul reports:—

"A considerable trade has for many years been carried on in Georgia in the export of Walnut tree knots (*loupes*). It is principally in the hands of French adventurers, and has latterly been on the decline from the failure of supply. During the present year (1872) several agents connected with this trade have visited the Persian districts of the Karadagh and Ghilan in search of these articles, and likewise of Box-wood, the supply of which is also said to be falling off in the districts of the Black Sea. I have not yet learnt that the latter has been found in any quantity in the Persian provinces, but Walnut trees abound throughout the wooded districts of the Karadagh."

For both of these articles there is in this country a constantly increasing demand. Walnut wood is, in fact, a fashionable furniture wood, and well marked knots always find buyers, while good sound Box-wood is in great demand for engraving.

New Garden Plants.

× CATTLEYA FAUSTA, *nov. hybr.*

Loddigesii♀ xoniensis♂. Sepalis cuneato ligulatis acutis; tepalis rhombeis lateribus obtusangulis apice acutis undulato crispulis; labelli lobis lateralibus semiovatis; lobo antico producto oblongo emarginato crispulo; disco omnino levi; columna apice utrinque auriculata.

Another of these curious Orchid hybrids! It has neat flowers of a very pretty lilac colour; the lip is white with a large yellow disc. In one variety (*var. radicans*) there are numerous dark purplish veins and streaks over the anterior part. The plant itself is just intermediate between *Cattleya Loddigesii*, as the ♀, or seed parent, and *C. xoniensis*, as the ♂, or pollen parent. It is the more valuable that it flowers till the end of November, when Orchid flowers begin to be scarce. It was raised at the Royal Exotic Nursery of Messrs. Veitch. A figure (57) of this new hybrid is given on the opposite page. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

EPIDENDRUM PHYSOIDES, *n. sp.*

Spathium aff. *E. polygonatum*, Lindl.; et prostrato, *Rehb. f.*; *E. Physinga* prostrato, Lindl.; paniculatum, *labello transverso rotundato, antice obtusissimo subtrilobo, vesica calcaris antice adnata rotundata sulcata.—Folia lanceolata crassa subpilocarpa, dimidium pollicem lata; bractea: triangule acute; sepalis triangula sepalis linearia acuta; labelli basi callis tribus, lateralibus triangulis carnosus; callo medio parvulo; columna brevis clavata; flores ditute flavide albidis; labellum basi violaceum.*

A mere botanical curiosity, with sordid whitish brown flowers. It stands very near *E. polygonatum*, whose lip is flabellate and bifid, and whose calli are much longer. There is no doubt that the *Physinga* prostrata of Dr. Lindley is closely related to it, but the column and calli are widely different. I obtained this remarkable botanical plant from Messrs. Veitch, who procured it from Costa Rica through their lamented collector, Zahn. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

SELENIPEDIUM LONGIFOLIUM, *Wav. et Rehb. f., var. COLORATUM.*

A much finer variety of this well-known plant, with broader leaves and purplish petals, having also beautifully purplish-veined sepals. There is no claim to distinguish it as a species, though it well deserves the rank of a variety. The dry flowers named *Selenipedium Roezlii* in my herbarium have a very different staminioidum, transverse, ligulate, and blunt, and there appears also to be a totally different direction of the petals. Whether the garden plant is this or the new variety we shall, I hope, soon see. I have to thank for the beautiful flower my excellent correspondent, J. Day, Esq., whose able gardener, Mr. Gedney, has just flowered it. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

HORTICULTURE IN VICTORIA.

THE progress of horticulture in the Australian colonies must always be a subject of great interest to English readers, who number so many relatives and friends in those distant lands.

Victoria, though the youngest member of the group, has made rapid advances, and especially of late years. Though she has in many respects a less favourable climate than Tasmania for the Apple, Gooseberry, Strawberry, Currant and the Raspberry, she is well able, with perhaps the exception of the Currant, to grow these fruits of cooler climes in the Melbourne district, and only in cases where early and severe hot winds visit the colony is there found to be any general failure in the crop. Over Tasmania, however, Victoria has great advantages in the suitability of the climate to the growth of the more delicate varieties of Pears, the Grape, the Orange, the Peach, Nectarine, and Apricot. All these are too tender for the climate of Tasmania to be planted with any degree of certainty of crop. For the cooler fruits, the climate of Victoria is greatly superior to that of either South Australia, New South Wales, or Queensland, for only in isolated spots in those colonies is it possible to grow the fruits of English orchards. Queensland can scarcely hope to grow the Apple, unless, perhaps, she succeeds with some of the