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THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

VOL. I.—THIRD SERIES. □

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1887.

LONDON:

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

1887.

The GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

ESTABLISHED 1841.
No. 2407.

No. 7.—VOL. I. {THIRD SERIES.}

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1887.

{Regt. as a Newspaper. {PRICE 3d.
{WITH SUPPLEMENT. {POST-FREE, 3d.

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HYBRID TEAS.

There has, however, of late years been an attempt to establish another class—what are called hybrid Teas; and this has tended to create no little confusion—a confusion which I can but think is likely to make “confusion worse confounded.” The hybrid perpetual Roses originated from the hybrid China crossed with varieties of China and Bourbon Roses. “The hybrid China itself owes its origin,” says Mr. Rivers (than whom there is no higher authority), “to the Tea-scented Noisette and Bourbon Roses, fertilised with the French Provins and other summer Roses, and also to the latter crossed with the former;” so that if we take any hybrid perpetual and seek for its parentage, it would be very difficult to determine it. In some there is a manifest evidence of Tea blood, so that when any one commences to hybridise them with Teas, or *vice versa*, it is not the same as hybridising two distinct species—the blood is already mixed up, and the term pedigree as applied to them is a misnomer [not necessarily. Ed.]. The first of the so-called hybrid Teas was Cheshunt Hybrid, a chance seedling raised by Messrs. Paul & Son; it is by them supposed to be a seedling between Madame de Tartas and Camille de Rohan; it has been and is a most useful Rose of a colour not beloved by the fair sex, but most free-flowering, and as a climbing Rose valued in all parts of the world. La France evidently had a good deal of Tea blood in it, but had always been classed as a hybrid perpetual till of late years Guillot has placed it with Reine Marie Henriette, Camoens, &c., amongst the hybrid Teas.

The confusion created by attempting to make this a separate class led to the matter being brought before the committee of the National Rose Society, which had already decided that they were not to be exhibited amongst Teas; and it was by them decided that, however called, hybrid Teas or pedigrees, they must be regarded as hybrid perpetuals, and shown with them. This arose mainly from one instance of the results of the attempt to make a new class. At one show a stand for hybrid perpetuals was disqualified because it contained a bloom of Lady Mary Fitzwilliam, while a few days after the Silver Medal for the best hybrid perpetual at the provincial show of the National Rose Society at Manchester had been awarded to it. *Wild Rose.*

(To be continued.)

CYPRIPEDIUM BOXALLI VAR. ATRATA.

The fine variety of this acaulescent Burman species was shown by Mr. F. G. Tautz, of Studley House, at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society's Floral Committee on Tuesday the 8th inst. The habit of the plant is dwarf, as seen in the specimen exhibited, the dark green foliage not exceeding 8 inches in height, the flower-stems topping these by about 2 inches. The colours of the lip and lateral petals consist of reddish-purple, associated with light green; the dorsal sepal is green, black-brown speckled. The upper margin being white. The whole flower has the waxed appearance seen in *C. villosum*. Our illustration (fig. 47) was taken from Mr. Tautz's plant.

FRUIT REGISTER.

PEACH “SURPASSE BON OUVRIER.”

The name indicates an improvement upon the “Good Workman” Peach. It is a variety described and figured in the *Revue Horticole* as having small globular glands and small campanulate flowers. The fruits are large, spherical, furrowed on one side, velvety, deep ruddy scarlet on the exposed side, flesh not adhering to the stone, yellowish-white, red around the stone, melting sugary, acidulated. It ripens at the end of September. As a market variety its deep colour will render it acceptable.

IRIS GERMANICA.

To grow what will really flourish in his particular garden, instead of breaking his heart over plants that are quite unsuited to his soil and climate, is advice which old gardeners continually find themselves impressing upon the beginner. I am induced to say a few words upon the so-called German Irises, because they are plants so good-natured as to do well in most places—even in town gardens—if treated with a moderate amount of kindness, and, when once planted, left undisturbed. I was told when I began to cultivate these Irises that they were fond of damp, and though I doubted the truth of the statement then, I have no doubt as to its untruth now; mine, at any rate, do best in the dry part of the garden.

flower I expect to be rewarded. Such a clump of it as I have seen in blossom at the York Nurseries is a sight worth looking at. *I. Gracchus* was some time before it bloomed; but now that it has grown into a clump it is very floriferous. Both of these, by-the-way, are, I suppose, varieties of *I. variegata*. Of *I. Florentina* I may say the same as of *Gracchus*. Some kinds, on the other hand—*e.g.*, *Mme. Chereau*,—will bloom in quite small pieces. Some again increase in size much more quickly than others. I find *Victorine* and *Jacquesiana*, for example, increase slowly: possibly in a better climate the case may be different.

Opinions may differ as to particular plants, but I think the following list includes not more than three or four (and these have some other special recom-

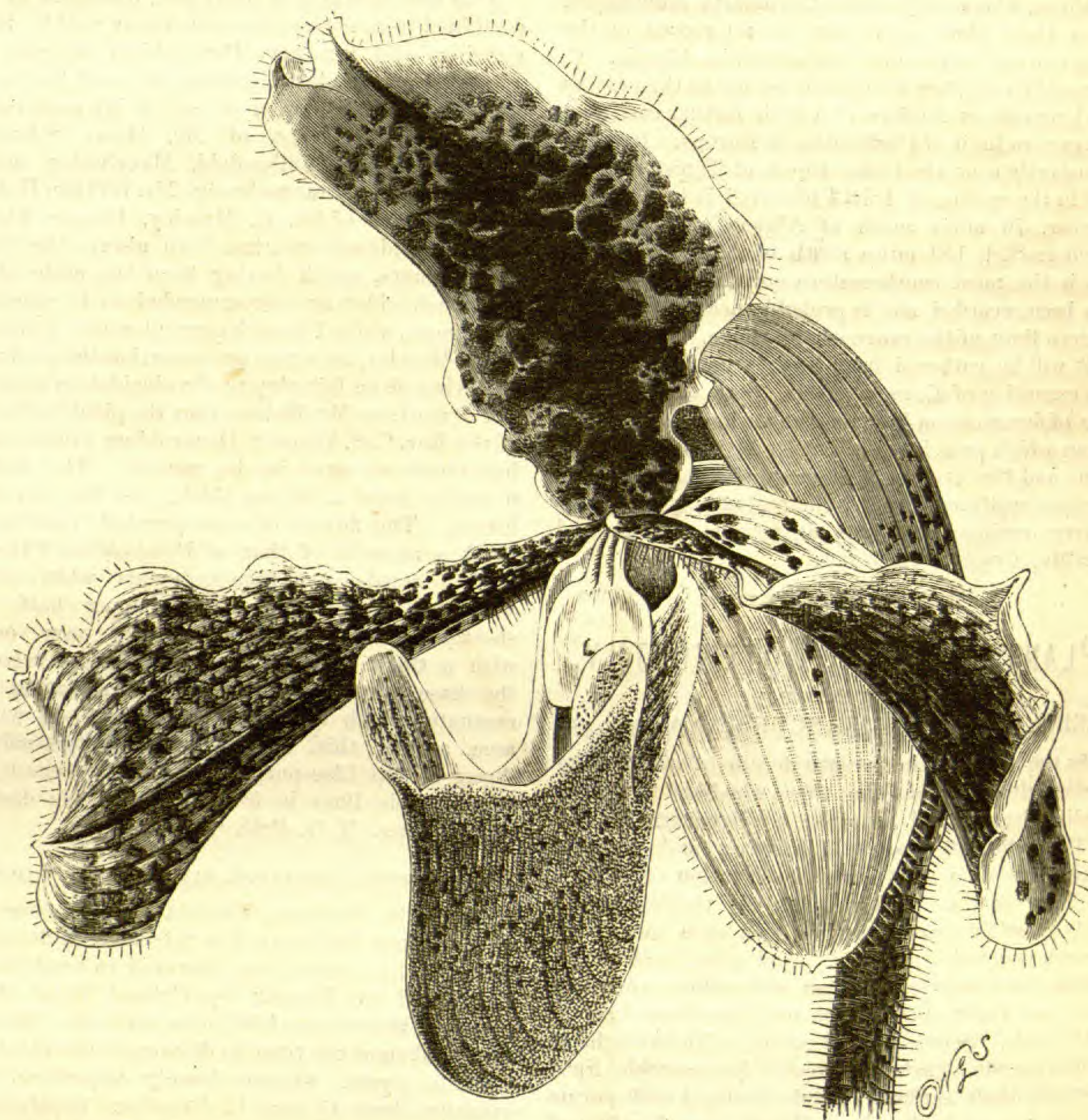


FIG. 47.—CYPRIPEDIUM BOXALLI VAR. ATRATA.

In damp places the so-called germanica frequently waste away (that may of course be due to something peculiar in the soil), and are very much disfigured by slugs. I was told, too, that they would grow anywhere, and this is, roughly speaking, true; but they will not flower well unless they are satisfied with their home. I should say they would do well anywhere, provided the drainage was good and they were not too much shaded by trees. I was also instructed never to divide them. This is very good advice on the whole, but judgment of character is as necessary in Iris growing as in most other things. I have some clumps—especially in rather shady places—which grow proportionately less floriferous as they increase in size, and distinctly require breaking up.

These plants seem to me to vary very much in floriferousness. I have a clump of *I. De Berghii* which has never yet flowered, though when it does

mentations of their own), that are not first-rate. It would be very easy to enlarge the catalogue (I ought to say that I mention no variety which I have not flowered except *De Berghii*):—

Afghan Prince (Barr), rich bronze and crimson; flowers freely.

Arnoldi, violet-bronze and purple.

Atropurpurea, rich dark purple.

Attraction (Backhouse), apparently identical with *Princess of Wales*, white, large flower.

Aurea, yellow, very distinct, but not a strong grower.

Bridesmaid, white and reddish-lilac, distinct.

De Berghi, yellow and crimson, very rich.

Flavescens, primrose.

Florentina, white.

Fontarbie (Backhouse), purple-blue, rich veining; very distinct, plant dwarf and free.