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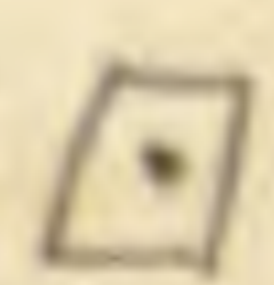
THE
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

AND

AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE

FOR

1847.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS,
AT 5, UPPER WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN.
1847.

AMERICAN PLANTS.

JOHN WATERER begs to inform the Nobility and Gentry now improving their Estates, that he is prepared to execute orders for the undervalued splendid hardy RHODODENDRONS, the selection being left to the Purchasers, at 42s. per dozen :-

Standard Rhododendron Catawbiense, good bushy heads, 7s. 6d. each and upwards.

AZALEAS, good mixed kinds, 18s. to 24s. per dozen. Selections from the following at 30s. per dozen :-

Table with 3 columns of plant names: Ardens, Aurantia, Cliveana, etc. and their prices.

Kalmia latifolia, healthy bushy plants, 50s. and 75s. per 100; larger, 1s. each; 1 1/2 to 2 feet, 18s. per dozen.

J. W. has the pleasure of stating that his Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Kalmias, and other American Plants required for forcing, are well set with bloom, particularly Kalmia latifolia of a very small size (6 to 9 inches).

Cedars of Lebanon, the largest and finest stock ever offered, all warranted to grow, from 2 to 10 feet, very handsome and bushy to the ground, from 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d. and upwards each.

Red Cedars, very handsome, 3 to 9 feet. Hemlock Spruce Firs, 4 to 10 feet. Striped Hollies, 2 to 6 feet. Irish Yews, 3 to 9 feet.

Common Laurels, 10s. 6d., 16s., and 21s. per 100. Portugal Laurels, 2 to 3 feet.

Standard Roses, most approved kinds, 18s. to 21s. per dozen. Green and Black Spruce and Silver Firs, 3 to 12 feet.

Ornamental and Forest Trees of all kinds, Waste Lands planted by contract. Catalogues of J. W.'s extensive collection of American Plants, &c. &c. forwarded on application.

American Nursery, Bagshot, Surrey, near Farnborough Station, South-Western Railway.

TO GENTLEMEN ENGAGED IN PLANTING, BUILDERS, &c. - LARGE HANDSOME EVERGREENS FOR IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

JAMES JOHN FOSTER having purchased the NURSERY STOCK of Mr. ROBERT MORGAN, of Edgeware, is enabled to offer the same on very advantageous terms.

SEEDS.-CORNER OF HALF MOON-STREET. THOMAS GIBBS and Co., (By Official Appointment) the SEEDSMEN to the "ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND."

AMERICAN NURSERY, KNAP-HILL, NEAR WOKING, SURREY.-TO GENTLEMEN ENGAGED IN PLANTING.

HOSEA WATERER has to offer the following highly desirable plants :-

Table with 2 columns of plant names: Cedrus Deodara, Cedars of Lebanon, Spruce Firs, etc. and their prices.

The above are all growing in the open ground and are healthy and handsome plants. Prices will be furnished on application, together with a Catalogue of his well-known unrivalled collection of American Plants.

HOSEA WATERER would also invite especial attention to the following, which are well adapted for Planting Carriage-drives, Cover, &c. :-

Rhododendron ponticum, 10s. 6d., 15s., to 21s. Berberis aquifolium, 2-yrs. seedlings, fine, 15s. per 1000.

The Knap-hill Nursery is within an hour's ride of London, being near the Woking Station, South-Western Railway. It is most particularly requested all letters intended for this establishment be addressed, HOSEA WATERER, Knap-hill, near Woking, Surrey.

TO NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN ABOUT TO PLANT THIS SEASON.

W. SKIRVING, Walton Nursery, Liverpool, begs to announce that the stock of his New Nursery Grounds being now fit for sale, he is enabled this season to offer a more extensive collection of FRUIT TREES, FOREST and ORNAMENTAL TREES and SHRUBS, than he has ever before offered to the public, priced Catalogues of which may be had on application.

The FOREST TREES consist of several millions, including Oak, Ash, Elm, Larch, Scotch Fir, Spruce, and all the common Forest Trees generally planted in this country; and of the following for Underwood, - Hazel, Sloe, Privet, Holly, Rhododendron, Laurel, Berberis aquifolia, &c., at prices much under the rates of former years.

In addition to the other general collection of HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES, W. S. particularly recommends the Araucaria imbricata and Cedrus Deodara, of which he holds many thousands of well-grown Plants, of sizes from one to three feet high, grown in pots, in the open ground, and warranted to remove with safety to any distance.

The FRUIT TREE collection consists of all the new and most approved sorts of Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Apples, Pears, &c., and a large assortment of the most choice varieties of Vines, grown from eyes, and well established, in pots three to six feet high. Ornamental Trees, Evergreen and Flowering Shrubs, of large sizes, suitable for giving immediate effect.

Railway Contractors and others enclosing new lands, or improving estates with new fences, can be supplied to any extent with fine transplanted Thorn Quicks, of various ages, at very reduced rates.-Nov. 20, 1847.

PINE PLANTS, CAMELLIAS, CAPE HEATHS, AND GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

FOR SALE, 200 PINE PLANTS, chiefly Queens, in first-rate condition, many of them far superior to those plants from which the Advertiser has been cutting fruit that has this season been awarded 8 Medals by the Horticultural Society of London, and 2 first Prizes at Exeter. Also 40 CAMELLIAS, good sorts, in excellent condition, many of them full of flower buds, height from 3 to 6 feet, bushy in proportion to size. Also about 100 CAPE HEATHS, many of them very good specimens and good sorts. Also about 150 GREENHOUSE and other PLANTS, in the best condition, of the best varieties, and splendid specimens, fit for exhibition, many of them having obtained Prizes at the Exeter Exhibitions. Also a PEACH HOUSE, nearly new, 32 feet long by 16 feet broad, with trellis and hot-water pipes, the property of a gentleman about to give up growing the above plants.-Apply to Mr. MASON, Escot, Ottery-St.-Mary, Devonshire.

QUICKWOOD, OAKS, &c.

JAMES BACKHOUSE AND SON, NURSERYMEN, York, invite attention to their fine stock of Seedling and Transplanted QUICKWOOD, OAK, ASH, SPRUCE, LARCH, and other Forest Trees; HAZEL, BLACK or SLOE THORN, LAUREL, and other Shrubs. The price regulated by the size and quantity.-J. B. and Son have also fine bedded Holly, adapted for hedges.

E. BECK informs the Public that the various Articles manufactured by him in Slate for Horticultural purposes, may be seen in use at Worton Cottage, Isleworth, upon application to the gardener (Sundays excepted.)

GARDENERS' REGISTER OFFICE.



HORTICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT.

J. WEEKS AND CO., King's-road, Chelsea, Architects and Builders of Hothouses, Greenhouses, Conservatories, &c., beg to inform the Nobility and Gentry that they have erected, on their premises, for the purpose of inspection, a variety of Horticultural Buildings, showing all the various modern improvements of the day.

J. WEEKS AND CO.'S PATENT HOT-WATER APPARATUS is unrivalled for simplicity and efficiency. The whole apparatus, in various forms, may be seen in action on their premises. Boilers of all sizes, which only require attendance once in 12 hours.

J. WEEKS AND CO. have, in addition to their Horticultural Manufactory, established an extensive Ornamental Nursery. The buildings, which are now nearly completed, are allowed to be the finest in the country; as also the complete arrangements of the Heating Apparatuses. The whole combining economy with utility and elegance.

There is a rare and most esteemed Collection of Stove and Greenhouse Plants, Catalogues of which will be forwarded. THEIR SEED CATALOGUE IS NOW READY.

The prices at this Establishment will be found considerably lower than those at any other. Plans, Estimates, and Catalogues furnished free.

A REGISTER OF EVERY CLASS OF GARDENERS requiring situations, classed according to their various qualifications, offers to the Nobility and Gentry an easy means of selecting those best adapted to their purpose.

GARDENERS in want of situations will be furnished with a printed form upon application. NO CHARGE WHATSOEVER IS MADE.

Now ready, price 1s., or free by post for 18 Penny Stamps, A MANUAL OF FRUITS, consisting of full and accurate descriptions of all the Fruits cultivated in the gardens and orchards of Britain, a valuable assistant in determining and identifying each variety, and aiding cultivators to form a judicious selection.

To be had at the Nursery, Kensington-road; of W. and J. NOBLE, 152, Fleet-street; and HURST and M'MULLEN, Leadenhall-street, London.

MESSRS. GRAY, ADAMS, and HOGG beg to call attention to their Extensive Cultivation of FRUIT TREES, extending over upwards of 30 acres of their Nursery Grounds. The trained trees are particularly deserving of notice, as being clean, vigorous, and handsome, and well calculated at once to cover a wall and give it a furnished appearance.

Autumn being the most favourable season for every description of planting, no time should be lost in transmitting early orders. Catalogues may be had on application. Brompton-park, Kensington-road, London.

SOHO PLATE-GLASS WAREHOUSE, 26, Soho-square, Depot for the sale of the PLATE GLASS manufactured by the St. Gobain and St. Quirin and Cirey Companies, Paris. The attention of Architects, Builders, and the Trade generally is particularly requested to this article, which stands UNRIVALLED FOR BRILLIANCY OF COLOUR, superiority of substance and polish, and possesses almost faultless quality. This Plate Glass can be procured of any dimensions.-Applications for samples, lists of prices, and all further particulars, to be addressed to ALFRED GOSLETT, Agent, 26, Soho-square.

GLASS FOR CONSERVATORIES.

JAMES PHILLIPS AND CO., 116, Bishopsgate-street Without, are supplying SHEET GLASS at the following reduced Prices for Cash.

Table with 2 columns: HORTICULTURAL GLASS FOR CONSERVATORIES (SIZES UP TO 40 INCHES LONG) and SMALL SQUARES OF SHEET GLASS.

GLASS MILK PANS, PROPAGATING GLASSES, AND BEE HIVE GLASSES, carefully packed in Baskets, and sent to any part of the kingdom.

METAL HAND-FRAMES. 12-inch 3s. 0d. Glazed 6s. 0d.

Table with 2 columns: METAL HAND-FRAMES (14 inch, 16 inch, 18 inch) and GLASS TILES AND SLATES.

SASHES AND FRAMES MADE AND GLAZED. Every description of Lamp Shades, Gas Glasses, Shades for Ornaments, Stained and Ornamental Windows, Patent Plate Looking-glasses, and every article in the Trade wholesale and retail. Workmen sent to any part of the kingdom.

STRONG HORTICULTURAL 16-oz SHEET GLASS FOR CONSERVATORIES, GREENHOUSES, PITS, FRAMES, &c.-FURTHER REDUCTION.

HETLEY AND Co. publish Prices in the Gardeners' Chronicle the first Saturday in every month. Wholesale and Retail Glass Shade, Sheet, Crown, and Patent Plate Glass Warehouse, 35, Soho-square, London.

GLASS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN PLATE, CROWN, AND SHEET GLASS WAREHOUSE, 49, BROAD STREET, BLOOMSBURY.

A. MARSHALL begs to inform his Friends and the Horticultural Public that he has just received from the Manufacturers a large quantity of very Superior SHEET AND CROWN GLASS, which, from its equality of surface, is peculiarly adapted for Horticultural purposes, and, from particular circumstances, he can offer at much lower prices than have been advertised for good Glass.

18 oz. sheet ... 8d. per foot | Crown, 6 in. by 4, and under, 2d. 16 ditto ... 4d. " | Do. from 6 in. by 4 to 10 by 8, 3d. 21 ditto ... 5d. " | Ditto, 10 in. by 8 to 20 by 14, 4d. Tinted Blue and Straw colour, and the same that has been used at Kew, 5d. per foot. Glass Water Pipes, 1 in. to 2 in. bore, in lengths from 3 to 6 feet. Glass Milk Pans, Propagating Glasses, Glass Tiles and Slates, Glass Shades, &c.

BRITISH AND PATENT PLATE, COLOURED, ORNAMENTAL, CROWN, SHEET, AND HORTICULTURAL GLASS, Tinted Glass for Conservatories, Thin Glass and Slides for Microscopic purposes, Registered Ornamental Glass Window Blinds, French Shades, Bee, Propagating, Grape, and Cucumber Glasses, Railway Signal Light Lenses, supplied wholesale and retail by E. and W. H. JACKSON, 315, Oxford-street.

GLASS CHANDELIERS for GAS.-"Registered" Designs-from 4l. 15s. upwards, at F. AND C. OSLER'S London Warehouse, 44, OXFORD STREET, near Berners-street, Manufactory, Broad-street, Birmingham. Established 1807. A Superior and Extensive Stock of Glass Chandeliers, from 7l. 10s.; Lustres, from 18s. per pair. Table and Ornamental Glass, &c., of the newest and richest designs, constantly on view. Furnishing Orders for Glass executed with dispatch.

POLMAISE. COMPLETE SET OF IRON WORK, greatly improved, for Heating on this Plan, with full descriptions and drawings, which are also sent with the apparatus, by which any country bricklayer can easily and effectually fix it without the least difficulty.

SMITH, SMITH, and JAMES, Eagle Foundry, Leamington.

HOTHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES made and fixed complete in all parts of the Kingdom, at a considerable reduction. One, two, and three-light Cucumber and Melon Boxes, and Lights of all sizes, kept ready for use, packed and sent to all parts of the Kingdom; warranted best material. Garden-lights of every description, at JAMES WATTS, Hothouse Builder, Claremont-place, Old Kent-road.

Reference may be had to the Nobility, Gentry, and the Trade, in most of the counties in England.

HOT-WATER APPARATUS AND HORTICULTURAL BUILDINGS.

DANIEL AND EDWARD BAILEY, of 272, Holborn, construct and erect Hot-water Apparatus for Warming Horticultural Buildings, Dwelling-houses, Churches, and Manufactories, in a simple and efficient manner, at moderate charges. They have erected Apparatus in England, Scotland, and Ireland for many Noblemen and Gentlemen. They had the honour to be employed in heating the ranges of Hothouses and Pits in HER MAJESTY'S NEW GARDENS AT FROGMORE, and in executing the works of the splendid Conservatory erected by the Horticultural Society of London in their gardens at Chiswick, and also in the erection of the Conservatory attached to the Pantheon Bazaar.

D. and E. BAILEY, who were the first to introduce Metallic Curvilinear Hothouses to Horticulturists, erect various descriptions of Horticultural Buildings, and execute all kinds of metal work at their Manufactory, 272, Holborn.

STEPHENSON AND CO., 61, Gracechurch-street, London, and 17, New Park-street, Southwark, Inventors and Manufacturers of the Improved CONICAL and DOUBLE CYLINDRICAL BOILERS, respectfully solicit the attention of scientific Horticulturists to their much improved method of applying the Tank System to Pneries, Propagating Houses, &c., by which atmospheric heat as well as bottom-heat is secured to any required degree, without the aid of pipes or flues.

S. and Co. have also to state that at the request of numerous friends they are now making their Boilers of Iron, as well as Copper, by which the cost is reduced. These Boilers, which are now so well known, scarcely require description, but to those who have not seen them in operation prospectuses will be forwarded, as well as reference of the highest authority; or they may be seen at most of the Nobility's seats and principal Nurseries throughout the kingdom.

S. and Co. beg to inform the Trade that at their Manufactory in New Park-street, every article required for the construction of Horticultural Buildings, as well as for heating them, may be obtained upon the most advantageous terms.

Conservatories, &c., of Iron or Wood erected upon the most ornamental designs. Balconies, Palisading, Field and Garden Fences, Wire Work, &c.

Elms bore fruit; the Almonds and Apricots on walls were covered with flowers, and the Lilacs had thyrses 2 centimetres long, accompanied by leaves 1 centimetre long. The 28th of February the Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*) of the Tuileries (known by the name of the Horse Chestnut of the 20th March, because that is the period at which it opens its buds, long before the other trees in the garden*), bore a great number of expanded shoots on the lower branches, of which the leaves were just 5 centimetres broad; those on the higher branches appeared to me less advanced. In the botanical school in the garden of plants, I looked over all the borders, and found the following plants in flower.

Dicotyledons.—*Ranunculus gargaricus*, Ten.; *Anemone Hakelii*, Pohl.; *Ficaria ranunculoides*, Moench; *Helleborus foetidus*, L.; *Hepatica triloba*, DC.; *Mahonia aquifolium*, Nuttall; *Leontice odessana*, Fisch; *Magnolia yulan*, Desf.; *Cheiranthus scoparius*, Willd.; *C. cheiri*, L.; *Arabis alpina*, L.; *Alyssum saxatile*, L.; *Cochlearia officinalis*, L.; *Aubrietia deltoidea*, DC.; *Brassica chinensis*, L.; *Fumaria fabacea*, Pers.; *Viola tricolor*, L.; *Acer platanoides*, L.; *Amygdalus comarum*, L.; *Cydonia japonica*, Pers.; *Prunus spinosa*, L.; *P. myrobolana*, L.; *P. nigra*, Ait.; *P. nepalensis*, Wallich; *Kerria japonica*, DC.; *Spiraea acutifolia*, Willd.; *Ulex europaeus*, L.; *Cornus mas*, L.; *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Hoffm.; *Hacquetia epipactis*, DC.; *Saxifraga crassifolia*, L.; *Tussilago petasites*, Hop.; *T. hybrida*, L.; *Bellis perennis*, L.; *Vinca minor*, L.; *Pulmonaria minor*, DC.; *P. angustifolia*, L.; *Cynoglossum omphalodes*, L.; *Primula veris*, L.; *P. villosa*, Jacq.; *Soldanella alpina*, L.; *Lamium amplexicaule*, L.; *Veronica ceratocarpa*, Meyer; *V. Buxbaumii*, Ten.; *Hyoscyamus Scopolia*, L.; *Daphne Mezereum*, L.; *Euphorbia Characias*, L.; *Andromeda crispata*, H. P.; *A. polifolia*, L.; *A. calyculata*, L.; *Erica herbacea*, L.; *Rhododendrum dauricum*, L.; *Populus ontariensis*, H. P.; *P. candicans*, H. K.; *Salix praecox*, Willd.; *S. Lambertiana*, L.; *S. Caprea*, L.; *Alnus incana*, DC.; *A. obcordata*, Meyer; *Taxus baccata*, L.

Monocotyledons.—*Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus*, L.; *N. minor*, L.; *Crocus luteus*, Red.; *C. pusillus*, Ten.; *C. biflorus*, Red.; *C. versicolor*, Red.; *C. vernus*, All.; *Erythronium Dens-canis*, L.; *Ornithogalum fimbriatum*, Marsch; *Scilla bifolia*, L.; *S. sibirica*, Andr.; *Muscari racemosum*, Mill.

If we cast a glance over this list, it will be seen that the majority is composed of early plants of our climate, which are usually in flower at the end of March or the beginning of April; then we find some Alpine plants, a few from North America and Japan, and lastly many kinds from the Crimea and eastern Europe: plants which flower very quickly after winter. We know, indeed, that it is at the commencement of spring that the steppes there are covered with early flowers, which are of very short duration; botanists who arrive in the summer, only find the ground covered with dried stalks, as M. Leveillé found to his cost in his voyage to the Crimea.

It would have been curious to run over, at the end of February, the environs of Paris, and to make a little list of all the plants in flower at that period. Various circumstances prevented me from realising this project; but, on the 20th of March I returned to Fontainebleau. The mean temperature, the highest and the lowest means of the first 20 days of the month of March, 1846, had been higher than the general means deduced from 21 years of observation. Nevertheless, these differences were far from being as great as in the months of January and February. The lowest mean in particular was only 0°·12 higher than it usually is. The thermometer often approached zero, the result of which was to stop vegetation. Besides, the sky was generally cloudy, and 53 millimetres of rain fell; these cold rains did not favour the expansion of flowers. The following table shows the mean temperature of the first 20 days of March, 1846, compared with those of the 21 preceding years.

The mean Temperature of the first 20 days of March.

	From 1826 to 1846.	Of 1846.	Difference.
Means	6°·19	7°·9	1°·71
Mean Maxima	9°·67	11°·6	1°·93
Mean Minima	3°·02	4°·2	0°·18

Fontainebleau is 28 latitudinal minutes (36 English miles) to the south of the Observatory of Paris; but this difference does not cause any considerable change in the mean temperature of the winter. Indeed, the town of Toulouse is 5°·14 south of Paris, and nearly under the same meridian as Fontainebleau and the capital. The difference between the means of the Paris winters and those of Toulouse is 1°·53†; consequently, the difference between Paris and Fontainebleau will be 0°·14 only: moreover the more southern vegetation of Fontainebleau† is owing more to the nature of the soil, consisting entirely of freestone, sand, and the fresh-water chalk formation, which increases shelter and reflects heat, than to its more southerly latitude. Let me add, too, that the greater elevation of the high points of the forest above the sea more than compensates for the latitudinal distance which separates Fontainebleau from Paris. I botanised about Fontainebleau on the 20th, 21st, and 22d of March. The places that I examined were the pass of Franchard, the valley of the Sole, the rocks of the Avon, the Champ de Man-

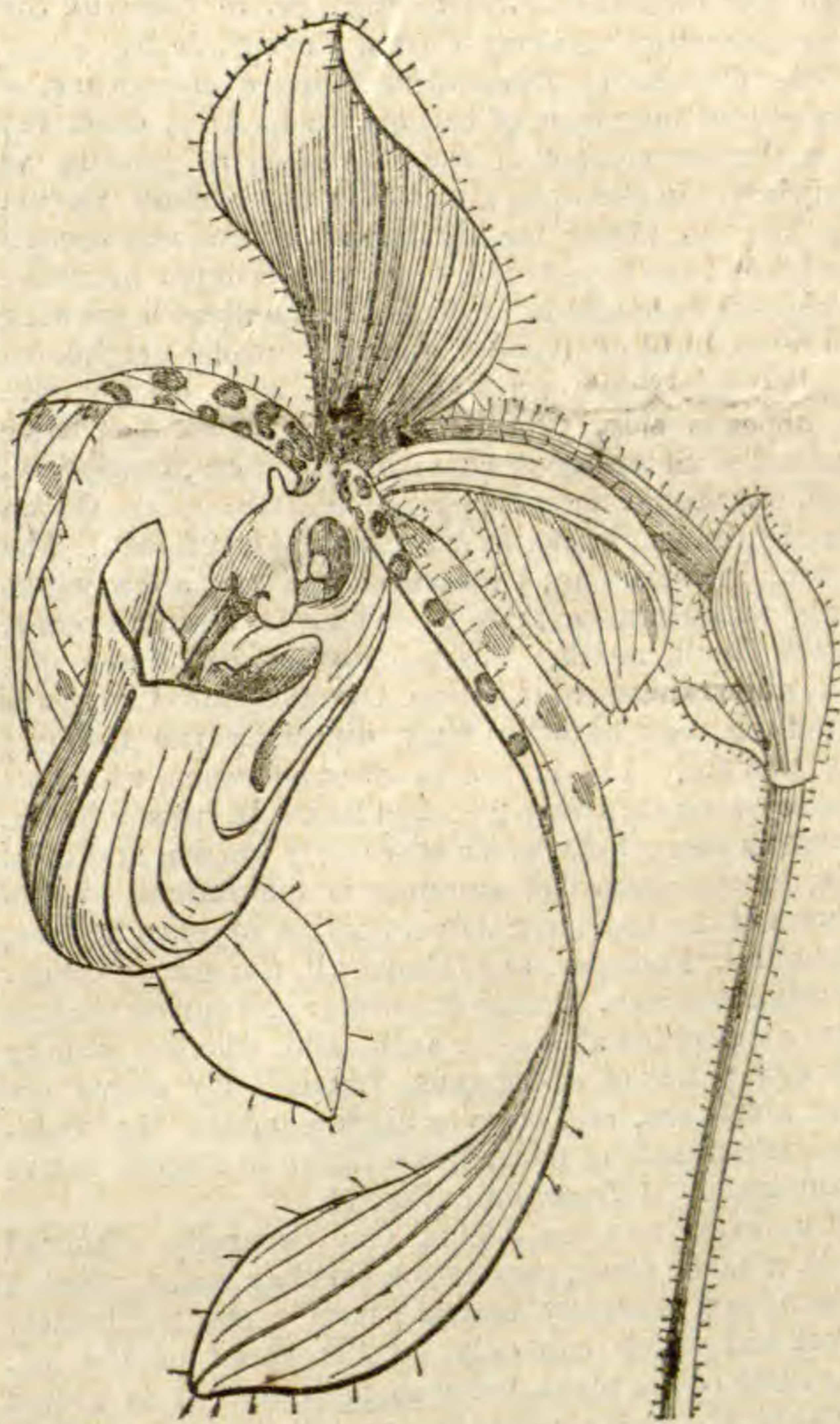
œuvre, the road from Melun, and the borders of the Seine near to Valvins. The following were the plants I found in flower in these different localities. I have included in it all those in which the corolla was sufficiently expanded to allow the stamens to be seen, whatever was the number of the individual flowers.

Plants in Flower about Fontainebleau, from the 20th to the 22d of March.—*Anemone nemorosa*, L.; *Ranunculus bulbosus*, L.; *Ficaria ranunculoides*, Moench; *Helleborus foetidus*, L.; *Draba verna*, L.; *Capsella bursapastoris*, Moench; *Cheiranthus Cheiri*, L.; *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, R. Br.; *Alyssum calycinum*, L.; *Viola canina*, L.; *Polygala vulgaris*, L.; *Cerastium semidecandrum*, Sm.; *Erodium cicutarium*, L'Hérit.; *Sarothamnus scoparius*, Wimm.; *Prunus spinosa*, L.; *Potentilla verna*, L.; *Senecio vulgaris*, L.; *Primula veris*, L.; *Veronica officinalis*, L.; *Linaria cymbalaria*, L.; *Pulmonaria angustifolia*, L.; *Lamium album*, L.; *L. amplexicaule*, L.; *Glechoma hederacea*, L.; *Euphorbia sylvatica*, L.; *Mercurialis perennis*, L.; *Rumex acetosella*, L.; *Betula alba*, L.; *Salix Caprea*, L.; *Juniperus communis*, L.; *Luzula pilosa*, Willd.; *Carex glauca*, Scop.; *Chamagrostis minima*, Borkh.

These species, all of which are spring plants, are 22 in number; and the greatest part of them are very rarely in flower in the middle of March. Nevertheless by degrees this burst of vegetation diminished under the influence of a continually cold and rainy temperature; and at the beginning of May the number of plants in flower did not appear much greater than in ordinary years.

MR. LOWE'S LADY'S SLIPPER.

(*Cypripedium Lowei*, Lindley.)
 SP. CHAR.—Leaves ligulate, not plaited, all radical. Stem downy (dull purple), bearing a raceme of 4 to 8 flowers. Sepals downy externally, the lower smaller and very slightly emarginate. Petals spatulate (nearly 3 inches long), much longer than the lip, incurved, slightly downy, with a few marginal purple bristles here and there, especially near the base. Lip perfectly smooth, shining as if varnished regularly oblong. Sterile stamen inversely heart-shaped, smooth, except at the edges, which are bordered with purple hairs, furnished at the base with a blunt horn hairy at the back, and with a short mucro between the lobes of the heart-shaped apex.



This beautiful Stove Orchid was imported from Borneo by Mr. Lowe, of the Clapton Nursery. It was discovered by his son growing on high trees in thick jungle, and flowering in April and May. It has blossomed for the first time in Europe, with Mr. A. Kenrick, of West Bromwich, to whom we are much indebted for a perfect specimen. The habit of the plant is that of *Cypr. insigne*, but the flower-stem bears from 4 to 8 blossoms, as we learn from a drawing now before us made under the eye of Mr. Lowe, jun. It is difficult to imagine anything more beautiful in its way; the lip is a purplish green, and as smooth as if French polished; the sepals are green, with a purple tinge near their base; the petals are nearly three inches long, spreading, and then curving gracefully inwards and downwards, narrow near the base, pale greenish yellow, with numerous well-defined purple blotches and a few stiff marginal purple hairs; a rich violet purple at the end, which is twice as broad as the lower part. The blossoms keep well after being cut; that from which the above figure (of the natural size) was made was put into the post Nov. 5, and is now, Nov. 15, as fresh as ever.

It will doubtless prove as easy of cultivation as the other Indian Lady's-slippers, and is a most valuable acquisition.

BISCAYAN WAY OF CULTIVATING ASPARAGUS.

As the culture of Asparagus is engaging some attention, I beg to send you a short account of a method I

have tried with some success. I owe you thanks for having published Captain Churchill's report on its cultivation at St. Sebastian, and though mine will not bear comparison in size with the Spanish, yet it is greatly improved in its flavour and tenderness.

About four years ago I made my bed by digging the soil out a foot deep. I could not go deeper because we have a cold and damp subsoil of clay. I then raised the bed two feet above the level of the garden, or three feet in the whole depth; a very large portion consisting of sand, sea-weed, stable manure, and the most fibrous loam I could procure. After it had laid about a week, I procured roots from a market gardener and planted them about a foot apart every way, and about three inches below the soil; they were not very good, i. e., not large, but put up good stems four to five feet high in the autumn. I had them carefully looked over, and had all the seeds gathered, and when the leaves decayed in autumn I cut down and stored the stems away to cover the bed next spring. Some stable manure was spread on the bed after the cutting down, and it was left on during the winter, and slightly forked in early in the following spring, when the old haulm was spread on it to the depth of six inches.

In the second year, against my judgment, I cut two or three dressings of very delicious heads, but found the haulm laid on was too heavy, as it bent down many fine heads. The third year I saved all the garden leaves and reserved them as a cover for my bed, but not having enough, mixed some sea-weed with them. I found this much better, as the heads now grew straight. I found that the lightest covering did the best, and this year I covered with sea-weed only, and have had an excellent crop, very tender, and of fine flavour. I remove the covering in June, about the 26th. To provide against accident, I sowed some of the seed the first year in pots, and as some of the roots did fail, I planted my seedlings wherever a vacancy occurred. I think I shall have to plant a considerable space this year again, which I cannot well account for, unless they have been destroyed by the larvae of the chaffer (brown beetle), which we find in great numbers in the sea-weed.

I never water the bed, as the weed keeps the soil always damp, which I presume the affinity of the salt it contains for moisture contributes to effect. We cut as soon as the heads show above the covering, which is pushed aside with the hand; and, in length not above six inches, 100 of the best weighed 4lbs. (had they been cut as long as I see them in Covent-garden, they would have weighed nearly double, I believe), and three-fourths of this was not only eatable, but delicious. If any of your correspondents have tried Captain Churchill's plan, I should be glad to have some account of the methods, and the results, as I think we are far behind in the cultivation of this vegetable, particularly as to size.

Should it be said that fermentation takes place in such a mixed mass of vegetable matter, I reply that being applied after the stems are cut, should it ferment it would only preserve a moderate heat in the ground during part of the winter, and by the time the Asparagus began to grow, the sea-weed, &c., will become perfectly sweetened by exposure to the atmosphere. —Y. Z., Heathfield-lodge, Shirley, near Southampton.

PROFESSOR WAGNER OF MUNICH.

"Quantum acie valeo, tantum valet iste loquendo."
 "Waterton's *Essays on Natural History*, chiefly Ornithological, Ed. 5th, 1844, is, from its radically fanatical tendencies, as well as its ill-arranged information, unworthy to be handled as subject-matter for scientific consideration."—See Reports on Zoology, Ray Society, page 279, for 1843 and 1844.

As I strongly suspect Professor Wagner to be a materialist (a character very common now-a-days in Germany), I am not surprised that he should pronounce my occasional allusions to the holy and immortal faith of my ancestors to have "radically fanatical tendencies." Again, our Professor finds the information contained in these *Essays* to be "ill-arranged," and "unworthy to be handled as subject-matter for scientific consideration."

No wonder he sees things in this point of view. He cannot do otherwise. The information to which he alludes had been obtained in forests and in swamps, in plains and over precipices, far beyond Professor Wagner's range, for he is evidently what we term a closet naturalist; and this tribe of sedentary gentlemen are poor judges of what is going on in the field of Nature; their own perambulations being chiefly confined to the little precincts of a warm and comfortable studio.

I readily acknowledge that these *Essays* have no claim to the dull and turgid perfection of scientific arrangement; and this at once places them out of all rule and square in the eye of a closet naturalist. They went to the press unfettered and in sylvan clothing, solely to befriend the widow of departed genius in her struggle with adversity; and their success depends upon captivating truth alone.

Our professor may affect to turn up his lip at them. He has a right to do so. We cannot wonder he refuses things distasteful to his palate. Cervantes says: "La miel, no es para la boca del asno."

Now, let us suppose Professor Wagner at work in writing an ornithological essay for a similar purpose. See him, in his book-department, turning over musty pages on the supposed habits of birds—birds never once seen by him in their native forests. His ignorance betrays him at every glance, and renders him utterly incapable of distinguishing truth from error. What can he do? An essay must be written; but, alas! dubious surmise as to the real habits of birds, with the scientific classifi-

* See De Candolle, "Vegetable Physiology," t. ii. p. 481, and "Remembrances of an Unknown One," in the "Soweniers' *Icones*," t. vi. p. 222.
 † See Patria, or ancient and modern France. Meteorology, pp. 234 and 257.
 ‡ See *Ibid.* Botanical Geography, p. 432.