

THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

VOL. XIV.—NEW SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1880.

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THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

Established 1841.

A WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

No. 344.—VOL. XIV. { NEW SERIES }

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CARTERS' HOME-GROWN SEEDS.—Paris, 1878. Awarded Five Gold Medals, being the highest award in every competition. All other Seed competitors, English as well as Foreign, received awards of inferior merit. CARTERS, the Queen's Seedsmen, High Holborn, London.

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SELECT INDEX OF PLANTS.

The Publisher of the "Gardeners' Chronicle" recommends Subscribers who wish to have extra Copies of the Numbers containing the "Select Index of Plants from 1841 to the end of 1878," to secure them at once.

The following is a List of those already published:—
1879.—October 11, 1879.—Dec. 13, 1880.—April 3, 1880.—Jan. 10, 24, May 8, 29, Nov. 8, Feb. 7, 21, June 19, 15, 29, Mar. 20, 27, July 10.
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ALEXANDRA PALACE, London, N. **FLORAL EXHIBITION of BOUQUETS and TABLE DECORATIONS,** arranged amidst groups of Tree Ferns, SATURDAY, August 14. Prize Lists forwarded on application. Exhibitors need not attend in person, provided due Notice is given of the Dispatch of the Exhibits. **JOS. FORSYTH JOHNSON,** Director, Horticultural Exhibitions.

ALEXANDRA PALACE, London, N. **THE NATIONAL FRUIT EXHIBITION,** September 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Prize List forwarded on application. Exhibitor need not attend in person, provided due Notice is given of the Dispatch of the Exhibits. **JOS. FORSYTH JOHNSON,** Director of Horticultural Exhibitions.

CLAY CROSS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—PRIZES for 20 PLANTS, £25, £20, £15, £10, £5. Other Prizes in proportion. Entries Close August 2. Clay Cross, near Chesterfield. **J. STOLLARD,** Sec.

SEVENOAKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The THIRTEENTH EXHIBITION of FLOWERS, PLANTS, FRUIT, VEGETABLES, TABLE DECORATIONS, BOUQUETS, COTTAGER'S PRODUCTIONS, &c., will be held in Montreal Park, Sevenoaks, by the kind permission of the Right Honourable the Earl of Amherst, on THURSDAY, August 19. Schedules and Cottager's Prize Lists to be obtained of the Hon. Secs., Mr. C. J. KNIGHT, 63, Loodoo Road; and A. A. CLARK, Linden Cottage, Mount Hurry, Sevenoaks.

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thrive here fresh and green. *Pinus nobilis* abounds, bushy, with robust health. The *Cryptomerias* flourish, and the tenderest *Thujas* look fresh. The ornament which has been conferred on these once bare and solitary peaks by planting their park-like bases with such trees and shrubs as surround the modern lake-dwellings of Grasmere and Ambleside—the late Sir John Richardson's, for example, Wordsworth's, Dr. Arnold's, "Christopher North's," or Miss Martineau's—has been of the most signal kind. And the planting of forest timber higher up the slopes has been equally effective. Not a single mountain in the neighbourhood, therefore, could approve of any kind of sentimental twaddle about railroads and innovation. The mountains love the moderns. They know they are the better for their ornamental bases; in short, they know which side their bread is buttered, and what is due to man, their amender and admirer, whether he be a native of some village at their foot, or a tourist.

Helvellyn and his neighbours looked down with an approving eye on the crowd which assembled to witness, or share in, the ceremony of "Rush-bearing," on July 17, at the church of Grasmere, near the lake, and close to that trout-producing, noisy, and pebble-bottomed stream, the Rothay. The time was evening, after tea, at the hour most propitious to needful village gossip—and all gossip must be needful if it cannot be avoided. Young and old were present, and all the fortunate strangers who were visiting Grasmere at the time. The Rector, successor to St. Oswald—if he preached here—mixed among the spectators, and bid the strangers welcome. His explanation of the Rush-bearing to one among the latter was, that the ceremony has been held on this same spot continuously from the earliest times. The celebration has somewhat altered its character, and for some years past the exhibition of Rushes has been supplemented by that of flowers. The school children are the present bearers, and sixty or seventy garlands are borne in the procession, one by each of the children, carried in the hands and not carried lazily, resting partly on the shoulders, but well and properly borne before in both hands.

The garlands are of various forms. In nearly all of them an upright stick, 3 or 4 feet long, is fastened in a block like an old-fashioned candle-stick, and the flowers are attached so as to completely cover this simple framework, or the stick is elaborated into a cross by means of cross-pieces. Crosses formed the commonest of the floral frameworks, every kind of cross being represented, from that fashioned by a single cross stick to the more elaborate Maltese cross. It was a pretty spectacle to see the boys and girls and their mothers bringing their flower-sticks and garlands into the village from the "green side," where some of the school children reside; and a more attractive gathering has been seldom witnessed than the group of bearers resting their burdens on the church-yard wall in the midst of the clustering and curious crowd—the poet who sung so sweetly on this very spot, whom the old people present still remember when he lived among them, resting here beneath the turf which so many generations have trodden from St. Oswald to the present time.

Gossip, interrupted at the tea-board, and sweetened by the perfume of the Roses, rippled pleasantly along, all in the open like the Rothay outside the west wall, till the procession had been formed. The ladies seemed particularly pleased; one man only uttered a complaint. He was a crabbed villager long past his prime, and he remembered well the Rushes of langsyne. The flowers displeased him. "Let a Rush-bearing be a Rush-bearing," he said, "and let a flower show be a flower show." Another old gentleman approved of the change. He remem-

bered the Rush-bearing of fifty years ago, when it was not much of a sight to see—a few Rushes only being collected and carried into the church by the young men and women. Then he remembered the use of paper flowers to enliven the green Rushes, which was a step in the right direction. He was in favour of flowers, he said, and of schools and education for the young.

Every stranger who followed the procession of flower-bearers into the church must have been surprised at the din of hammers used in fastening the blocks of the flower-sticks to the ends of the pews. Such noises from every part of the sacred building are not quite customary, and might have seemed irreverent but for the foregone impression produced by the solemn entry of the floral offerings and the sound of the inviting bell calling worshippers to evening service.

There is a nave and one aisle in Grasmere church, and presently five rows of flower-sticks had been duly fastened at the ends of the seats, with one row down the centre where the rows of benches meet. The noise of hammers suddenly ceased, the church was filled by the inflowing of the people, and the service commenced, the Rush-bearers' hymn was sung, and a short sermon, not uninspired by the magnificent appearance of the church, decorated by flowers in every part, was delivered.

There are now only three places in England—Grasmere, Ambleside, and Worksop—where the ancient custom of Rush-bearing is still observed, even in that modified form which has overlaid the Rushes with flowers. In several of the northern towns, as at Brighouse, one particular day in the year is still called the Rush-bearing day, though no ceremony is now observed. *H. E.*

New Garden Plants.

CYPRIPEDIUM MORGANIANUM, *n. hybr.**

A grand thing, coming nearer *Cypripedium Stonei* platytanium than any known species, or hybrid, but growing quite freely. Hence it may be foreseen that it will form the pleasure of many collectors when *Cypripedium platytanium* will be kept as a monopoly by Mr. J. Day and a few of his best friends, provided some bold collector does not surprise the shy beauty in her unknown domicile.

It is a hybrid between *Cypripedium superbiens* (Veitchianum) and *C. Stonei*, the first being the mother plant. (Let me add, in parenthesis, that the first-named plant is exceedingly curious, inasmuch as it appears that the rather numerous specimens in our collections are all descendants from two plants. One was introduced by Messrs. Veitch, I think, in a lot of *Cypripedium barbatum*; the other one was introduced from Java by Messrs. Rollisson. They sold the plant to Consul Schiller, and this was the original of my species, *C. superbiens*. I keep the flower, with Messrs. Rollisson's original label on parchment, in my herbarium. The plant of Messrs. Veitch was called *C. Veitchianum*, but the name did not obtain validity by the addition of a description.)

Now to return to our novelty. It has the leaves of *Cypripedium Stonei*. The nerves are a little darker, even the transverse ones. Whether the under side is just as white as is characteristic for *Cypripedium Stonei*, I cannot say, Messrs. Veitch having of course, in their usual prudence, sent but an old leaf. The strong peduncle bears three (more?) grand flowers. Sepals as in *Cypripedium platytanium*, whitish, with some conspicuous dark nerves. Petals broad, ligulate, blunt acute, much longer than the sepals, quite in the way of those of the *Cypripedium platytanium*, whitish sulphur, with very numerous dark brown mauve blotches and stripes inside. Lip nearly as in *Cypripedium superbiens*, but longer, and the sac more conical, light sulphur-white beneath, and brownish with a certain included mauve tint above. Staminode exceedingly large, nearly square, hooded, broader in front, with two forcipate introrse teeth, hairy.

* *Cypripedium Morganianum* (*Stonei* × *superbiens*).—Foliis ligulatis obtuse acutis, obscurissime nervoso reticulatis non marmoratis; pedunculo valido elato parce puberulo trifloro (semper?); bracteis triangulis acutis arcepitibus ovaria parvisisimè puberula sublevata vix tertia æquantibus; sepalis impari elliptico apiculato; sepalis pari connato ovato-triangulo, tepalibus ligulatis obtuse acutis latiusculis; labello Cypripedium superbiens sed apice magis conico; staminodio maximo subquadrato; antorsium dilatato; dente forcipato introrse antico utrinque; superficie puberula. *H. G. Rehb. J.*

This great novelty was raised in the Royal Exotic Nursery of Messrs. Veitch, by Mr. Seden. It is named in honour of Mr. Morgan, one of the most enthusiastic collectors of Orchids in the United States. *H. G. Rehb. J.*

SAUROMATUM PUNCTATUM, *C. Koch.**

Although not really a plant new to cultivation, since it was described as a garden plant so long ago as 1858, I call attention to it here, as it appears to be a scarce and little known species, and because it is altogether omitted from Engler's recent monograph of the Araceæ.

The habit and foliage of *S. punctatum* resemble that of the well-known *S. guttatum*, but the petiole is more handsomely spotted, the pale greenish ground being well covered with large blackish-green blotches, and marked between the blotches with numerous dots of the same dark colour, from which I suppose the specific name is derived; the bases of the midribs of the leaf segments are similarly marked beneath. The leaf-blade is pedatisect, with 11 to 15 elliptic acuminate segments, deep green, the midrib and veins impressed above, very prominent beneath, scape sometimes attaining a length of 7 inches. Spathe 1½–2 feet long; the narrow lanceolate-linear limb is purplish-green, nearly colorless and unspotted. Spadix 2 or 3 inches shorter than the spathe.

For a dried specimen and a living plant of this rare species the Royal herbarium and gardens at Kew are indebted to Mr. R. J. Lynch, Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, where it has long been cultivated under the name of *S. punctatum*; and although, as to the length of the spadix, the Cambridge plant disagrees with *C. Koch's* description, there can be no doubt as to the correctness of the name, for in all other respects it agrees well with his description. Unfortunately, no specimen of it exists in *C. Koch's* herbarium, so that there is only his description to judge from; he describes the spadix as about 6 inches long, but most probably his specimen was in some way imperfect, because he describes the part on which the flowers are borne as taking up 5 inches out of the 6, and the appendix as being short and rounded; such an appendix as this would be an anomaly in the genus, and as the Cambridge plant agrees with Professor Koch's description in all essential characters, the length of the spadix excepted, which is the normal one of the genus in the Cambridge plant, I conclude that Professor Koch's specimen had an imperfectly developed appendix to the spadix, although the flower-bearing portion was quite normal. *S. punctatum* may easily be recognised from the other described species, in which the spathe is known, except *S. simlense*, Schott,† by its unspotted, nearly colorless limb of the spathe. Besides the present species, *S. sessiliflorum*, Kth., and *S. pulchrum*, Miq., are also omitted from Engler's book; in other words, three out of the ten described species of this one genus are omitted from this most recent monograph of the Araceæ. *N. E. Brown, Kew.*

STENIA GUTTATA, *n. sp.‡*

Take the well-known rare *Stenia pallida*, give it shorter rather blunt sepals and petals, with spots of indian-purple on a straw-coloured ground, let the lip have such blotches too and only seven callous teeth, then change the linear pollinia to pyriform ones, and you have the very unexpected novelty which was gathered a while ago in Peru by Mr. Davis. It is just now in flower with Messrs. Veitch. *H. G. Rehb. J.*

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON ROSES.

I WAS at some pains to count the petals of a fine hybrid perpetual Rose, and to measure, approximately at least, its superficial contents, when I found that instead of the five rosy petals of the flower in the hedgerow, this, by art and perseverance, had got thirty-five petals; and as each one averaged 1½ square inch, and as both sides of the petal were coloured deeply, there would be 100 square inches exposed by this Rose to light and air, and to the manufacturing of that truly delicious perfume which all admire, and which even the dried petals retain for years after the rest of the flower has gone to decay.

Poets, sacred and profane, have lavished praises upon this flower, so that we need not say anything of its charms, and what old writers called its "vertues."

* *C. Koch*, in *Wochenschrift*, i., p. 263.

† *S. simlense*, Sch., is placed by Engler as a synonym of *S. venosum*, Sch., but it is perhaps the most distinct species in the genus, having a spathe (apparently unspotted) not more than a quarter as large as that of *S. venosum*, and a very slender subulate spadix, quite unlike that of *S. venosum*.

‡ *Stenia guttata*, *n. sp.*—*Arctis affinis Stenies pallidæ*, Lidl. Sepalis tepalibus brevioribus obtuse acutis; labelli tepalibus tantum septenis; columna utrinque obscure angulata pollinibus depresso pyriformibus.—Peruvia. Excd. Dom. Veitch. *H. G. Rehb.*