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THE

FLORAL MAGAZINE:

COMPRISING

Figures and Descriptions

OF

POPULAR GARDEN FLOWERS.

BY THE

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THE PLATES BY JAMES ANDREWS, F.R.H.S.

VOL. VII.



LONDON

L. REEVE & CO., 5, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1868.

TAYLOR AND CO., PRINTERS,
LITTLE QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

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PLATE 369.

BICOLOR PELARGONIUM, EGYPTIAN QUEEN.

All connected with horticulture are aware how great has been the rage for Pelargoniums, with variegated foliage, during the past two seasons. Exhibitions, especially to bring them forward, have been held, and prizes of large amount have been awarded them; those with leaves in the style of *Mrs. Pollock* being the most popular, next to these, in extent, are the bronze and gold, or as they are more frequently called, Bicolor varieties. While, probably, in the estimation of most persons, they are not so brilliant, yet, for the garden, we question whether they will not be more showy and attractive; they do not require so rich a soil, or such careful management as the Tricolors, while, as pot plants, they are very beautiful.

We have had the opportunity, during the past season, of seeing a large number of the best varieties of this class, but on paying a visit to the Messrs. Carter's Nursery, at Forest Hill, on the day of the Crystal Palace autumn show, we immediately selected *Egyptian Queen* as the finest variety we had seen. This judgment was confirmed by the decision of the Floral Committee, held at South Kensington shortly afterwards, for it carried the first prize against all comers; and this judgment will be, we think, acquiesced in by all who may grow it.

Egyptian Queen has a bright golden-yellow ground, on which the darkest bronze zone that we have seen shows very finely; the leaves themselves are of very great substance, and hence are enabled to resist the influence of both sun and rain; they are round and flat; the habit is dwarf and bushy. We were informed that it had been planted out in the Nursery with all the older golden and bronze-zoned Pelargoniums, and that it had stood the variable seasons better than any of them. It

will be largely exhibited at the Metropolitan Exhibitions during the ensuing season, so that the great number of lovers of flowers, who frequent them, will have ample opportunities of seeing its beauty and distinctness.



PLATE 370.

CLEMATIS, LADY BOVILL.

The Messrs. Jackman and Son, of Woking, who have been so successful in the hybridization of the Clematis, and whose varieties, *Jackmani*, *Rubella*, *Prince of Wales*, *cubero-violacea*, have already attained so great a popularity, are still progressing in the same direction; and the very beautiful variety which we now figure shows that, with them, progress means improvement also, as we think this will prove to be one of the most attractive varieties yet raised; for, independently of the richness of its colouring, it will be seen that the width of the petal is greater than its length, which causes it to be very slightly cupped, resembling somewhat a fully expanded Tulip, while its colour, a greyish-blue, marks its distinctness from the other varieties.

There is probably no colour more wanted amongst bedding-out plants than those to which these plants belong; but, at first sight, it would seem as if a strong climbing plant would not be likely to be very serviceable for this purpose. However, Mr. Jackman, at Woking, and Mr. Fleming, at Cliveden, have successfully shown that this was very easily effected, and the method is of a very simple character. Large beds are those best adapted for them, and it is desirable, in order to have a good mass of bloom, to plant them pretty closely, say eighteen inches apart, and to peg them down in the same manner as Verbenas are treated; the bed should be well manured, and in the winter months a mulching will be very serviceable to them. In this way a dense mass of bloom can be obtained of the rich hues of violet, for which Mr. Jackman's plants are distinguished. Another excellent use that they may be put to is that of forming groups of tall plants on stakes; these should be placed tole-

rably close together, and a few strong plants placed beside them; these should be carefully tied to their supports as they grow, which they will rapidly do, and they will form very interesting subjects for the garden during the summer months.



PLATE 371.

FUCHSIAS, LUSTRE AND STARLIGHT.

There ought to be no more popular flower than the Fuchsia; the ease with which it is cultivated, and the profuseness of its bloom, entitle it to a first rank amongst the ornamental plants for the conservatory and greenhouse; and yet, during the past year, it has not received the attention it deserves, and hence the number of novelties produced has not at all kept pace with former years; the ensuing season will, however, we hope, show that the love for Fuchsias has not vanished. Mr. Cannell, of Woolwich, will have, we believe, some fine varieties raised by our friend and neighbour Mr. Banks, of Sholden, to let out; Mr. Smith, of Tollington Nursery, has six varieties of which he thinks highly, and no one ought to be a better judge of the Fuchsia than he, while Mr. Bull, of Chelsea, has the two varieties figured in our Plate, which we think cannot fail to be general favourites; they will be exhibited in the coming season.

Lustre, the upper figure in the Plate, is a flower of great substance, having a waxy white tube and very broad sepals, elegantly reflexed, and meeting the tube; the tube is of a remarkable tint of colour, being almost an orange-vermilion, of remarkable depth, and giving it a most solid appearance. *Starlight* has a beautiful clear white tube, the sepals long and reflexed, but not curling up quite so much as in the preceding variety, giving the flower a very graceful appearance; the corolla is a beautiful clear rosy-carmine or lake, very novel and distinct in appearance. Both of the flowers are well calculated for exhibition purposes, their habit being very good, and, owing to the short-jointed character of the wood, they are very profuse bloomers.

There is little now to be said on the subject of the cultivation of the Fuchsia; the old method of growing old plants is now rapidly going out, for it is found that yearling plants, treated with care and attention, make far more elegant and attractive plants; rich soil, frequent repotting, and plentiful watering, soon tending to make fine healthy specimens.



PA

AUSTRALIAN PITCHER-PLANT.

Some years ago, we figured (Plate 208) *Sarracenia Drummondii*, as a representative of the North American Pitcher-plants; and although the plant of which we now give an illustration is by no means a novelty, yet, as it has recently been much more cultivated, as it is so easy of cultivation, and is so great a curiosity,—we have thought we should be serving the interests of horticulturists by bringing it under their notice.

We saw it growing at Messrs. Carter's, at Forest Hill, and when we obtained the plant of *Egyptian Queen*, they were good enough to forward at the same time, to our artist, a plant of this Pitcher-plant, *Cephalotus follicularis*, from whence he has taken his figure. We have also seen it in great vigour at the Messrs. Veitch's and Messrs. Henderson's.

The method of cultivation is very simple. As it is a bog plant, coming from the Gulf of Carpentaria, in the warm parts of Australia, it requires to be grown in plenty of moisture; we have, in order to imitate its natural soil as much as possible, grown it in a mixture of fibrous peat and sphagnum moss, chopped very fine. The plant is potted in this, and raised up somewhat high in the centre; this pot is then placed inside another, about two sizes larger, and the space between them filled in with moss, the whole to be kept thoroughly moist, by frequent waterings overhead with a fine rose. The plant itself does not attain a greater length than two inches. When it is grown in a common greenhouse, this will be sufficient; but we have ourselves grown it in a drawing-room with much success, and it is sure always to attract attention by the profusion of singular pitchers which it produces; in such a situation it requires to be covered by a bell-glass, slightly raised at the

bottom, in order to prevent dust settling upon it. The pitchers are large for the size of the plant, measuring from one inch and a half to two inches in length, green at first, but afterwards becoming strongly marked with dark brown, the lid also is very strongly marked, at times, with dark brownish stripes, giving it altogether the appearance almost of a *Cypripedium*; it is desirable to shift it frequently (but not into too large pots), as owing to its requiring so much moisture, it is then apt to become soured,—the finest plant we ever saw of it having perished from this cause.





DALECHAMPIA ROEZLIANA ROSEA.

Of all the introductions to our stoves in the year 1866, the foremost place has been given on all occasions and by the most eminent authorities in horticulture to this lovely plant; and as it is one of those which, interesting to the botanist, is perhaps still more to the gardener, we have, notwithstanding its having been previously figured in the 'Botanical Magazine,' given it a place in our pages, that many, who might not otherwise know its beauty, may become thus acquainted with it through the exquisite drawing of Mr. Andrews.

It at once brings to our mind the beautiful *Bougainvillea*, owing its beauty not to the flowers, but to the bracts. But there is a far greater brightness and richness about it; while the habit of the plant is equally graceful. There is not either the difficulty of flowering it that has been experienced in the *Bougainvillea*, and, as it succeeds in small pots, it will form a very beautiful object for decorating vases in drawing-rooms or the dinner-table.

We are informed by one of our most successful cultivators that the soil in which it succeeds best is a mixture of yellow loam, peat, leaf-mould, and cocoa-nut refuse in about equal proportions, with some silver sand to make it more porous. We need not add that careful drainage is most essential to the successful cultivation of this, as, indeed, of all pot plants. When the pot is filled with roots, it ought to be shifted into one of a larger size, great care being taken never to allow it to flag for want of water. If plants of a large size are desired, the flower-buds must be pinched off as soon as they appear, in order that growth may be encouraged; and the plant itself will require to be placed in a moister atmosphere. It is readily propagated

by cuttings, which are to be struck in heat; about 75 degrees bottom heat being required to do so successfully; and plants struck in this way, and gradually brought into a cooler temperature, will form desirable plants for decorative purposes,—in fact, the beauty of the *Dalechampia*, great as it is, is equalled by its exceeding usefulness for all such purposes; and we think that Mr. Bull may safely be congratulated on having been the means of introducing this very lovely Mexican plant to our gardens.



CHRYSANTHEMUMS, MRS. HUFFINGTON
AND CAPTIVATION.

The past season will be remembered by Chrysanthemum-growers as one of the very worst, if not the very worst, they have ever known. The plants, whether in pots or in the open ground, seemed to succeed well enough until September, but after that, they not only did not progress, but seemed to stand still, and the flower-buds opened very late and with great difficulty; hence the various exhibitions were very much reduced in extent, and in the quality of the blooms exhibited; while Mr. Salter's winter garden, one of the pleasantest mid-winter sights of the Metropolis, was considerably shorn of its beauty, although its interest was increased by the addition of the Japanese Chrysanthemums, which we hope to notice in a future number.

At the period of our visit, we were enabled to see some of the most successful of last year's introductions, and to note the most promising ones for the present spring. Of the former, the most noticeable were *Cadies perfection*, bright red, with orange back; *Countess of Warwick*, primrose, of excellent habit; *Dr. Lindley*, large, dark orange, with amber centre; *Fingal*, rosy-violet; *Lady Telford*, delicate rose, with silver back, very beautifully incurved; it was figured in the 'Floral Magazine' of last year; *Ossian*, large rose, incurved; *Purpurea elegans*, rich purple-violet, a very scarce and attractive colour, also figured by us last year; and *Yolande*, silvery white, tinged with lilac.

In selecting two flowers for our present illustration, we were influenced by the desire to obtain novelty as well as excellence, and in both of those now figured these are combined. For

many years it has been a desideratum with lovers of the Chrysanthemum to obtain flowers in the style of that beautiful old variety, *Aimée Ferrière*, but without success. In *Mrs. Huffington* (originally called *Rival Aimée Ferrière*) we have, however, a flower very much in the same style. The tips are, however, darker, and the flower itself not quite so large. It will be a most decided acquisition for the conservatory. In *Captivation* we have a reflexed flower of medium size, and of novelty of colour. There are also many other fine varieties, but these seemed to us the most remarkable in Mr. Salter's varied collection.



FANCY VERBENAS.

It cannot have escaped the notice of lovers of flowers that, amongst those which are popularly called florists' flowers, there has from time to time been introduced a class, novel in their colouring, and, at first, avoiding all the rules laid down by florists as to what constitutes perfection, then afterwards giving way to the perseverance of the hybridizer. Thus, the Pansy, the Dahlia, the Geranium, the Carnation have all their fancy class; and of late years the Verbena (owing to the introduction of some Italian varieties raised by MM. Cavignini, of Brescia) is to be included in the list. We have, indeed, a few English-raised striped Verbenas, but they are not sufficient to form a class; this, however, the Italian raisers have done for us.

As far back as 1864, we figured some of these Italian novelties, and expressed our belief that they would lead to the introduction of a new race to our gardens. The same thought suggested itself to one of our most enterprising horticulturists, Mr. Bull, of Chelsea, and he has been gradually infusing into them more of the vigorous constitution of our English flowers, and improving their form also. Already, in a former year, we gave some of these, and have now the pleasure of adding another Plate of very effective and distinct varieties. *Distinction* (Fig. 1), soft pink, flaked, striped and spotted with deep crimson and vivid rose. *Leopard* (Fig. 2), white ground, heavily flaked and striped with purplish-red, the flake being very bright; and *Beauty* (Fig. 3), opening white, but getting suffused with deep blush as the flowers acquire age, distinctly striped and flaked with bright crimson and rose, some heavily flaked with rose only, good short pip, large truss, and good habit. There will be, as in most of these fancy flowers, considerable

variation in some of the blooms, some pips becoming almost self-coloured, and others more lightly marked.

It will be seen that these are very different from the few English-raised striped Verbenas that we have, and a reference to our former Plate will show that considerable advance has been made in the form of the flowers, as well as in the habit of the plants.

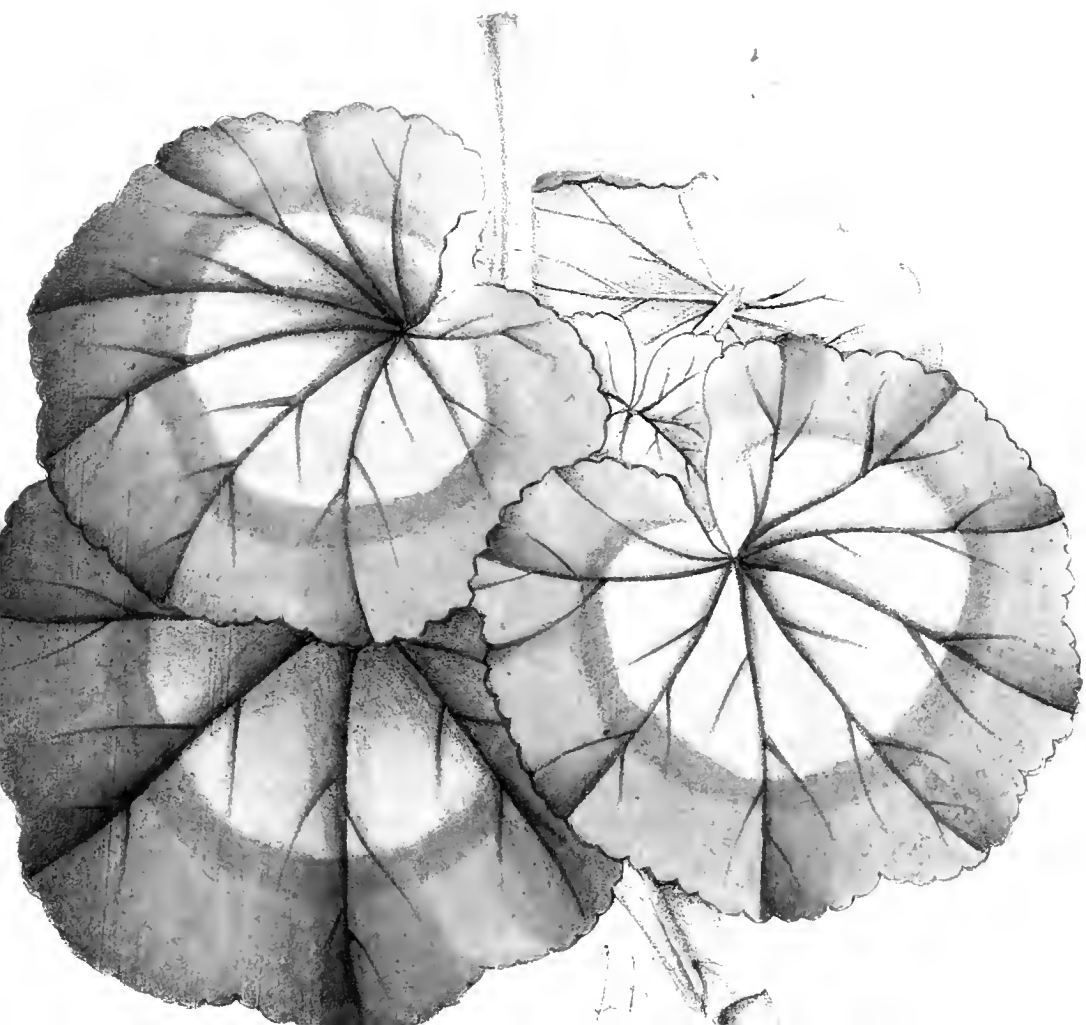


PLATE 377.

DOUBLE ZONAL PELARGONIUM, MADAME
LEMOINE.

Again have our neighbours across the Channel led the way in the introduction of a new race of plants for the decoration of our flower-gardens and greenhouses; and as to them we owe the double Zinnia and Aster, the fancy Pansy, the numerous race of Phloxes, and other garden novelties,—so now in the double Pelargonium they have again manifested the skill and perseverance which have led to so many successful results before.

We have recorded so many strange results in the family of Pelargoniums in our pages already, that the appearance of a double-flowering variety is not so much a matter of astonishment. We have seen great changes produced in the colouring of the leaf, in the form, size, and colour of the flower; and now we have the increase in the number of petals sufficient to form a double flower. This result has been obtained by Monsieur Lemoine, of Nancy, to whom we owe *Gloire de Nancy*, *Triomphe de Lorraine*, and others we have heard of, but have not seen,—one especially, called *Andrew Henderson*, producing trusses five and a half inches in diameter; they have as yet had the fault of being too rampant in their growth; but as we have obtained dwarf varieties in the other sections, so we may reasonably infer that the same result will be ultimately obtained in this class; in fact, from the description given to us of the variety now figured, a step in that direction has already been made. Messrs. Henderson, of Wellington Road Nursery, St. John's Wood, by whom this and other varieties have been introduced into England, say, "On looking at the plants we perceive that, like the *Gloire de Nancy*, it is of the *Pelargonium*

inquinans breed, but apparently less robust, and manifests a shorter and better habit, indicated by its thinner, finely-expanded orbicular leaves, remarkably even, and nearly forming a perfect circle, showing a tendency to develop its axillary buds more freely than *Gloire de Nancy*." It has been awarded a first-class certificate by the Imperial Horticultural Society of France, a first prize at the Exposition Universelle at Paris, and a silver medal at the Horticultural Society of Dijon; in colour we may perhaps best describe it as a double *Beauté de Suresnes*.



PLATE 378.

ODONTOGLOSSUM HALLII.

We are again indebted to the extensive collection of Messrs. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, for the opportunity of figuring the very fine *Odontoglossum* which forms the subject of our Plate, a fitting companion to many with which we have already enriched our pages.

There is no tribe of Orchids, varied and extensive though they be, which contains more varied and beautiful forms than that one to which our figure belongs. The splendid monograph of Mr. Bateman, in course of publication, testifies to this; nor is there one perhaps which is more extensively cultivated, owing to the fact that so many of them are capable of bearing what is called the cool treatment of Orchids; thus, in the catalogue of Cool Orchids, published by Messrs. Backhouse and Son, of York, we find upwards of thirty varieties of *Odontoglossum* suitable for this purpose, and containing some of the most beautiful of the tribe, as *Alexandra*, *Cerrantesii*, *Pescatorci*, which we have figured in former years; and, in our estimation, the fine species which has been so accurately rendered by Mr. Andrews merits a place alongside of any of these already named.—an opinion confirmed by no less an authority than Mr. Harry J. Veitch, who says, “The *Odontoglossum* you figure is true *Hallii*, one of the finest of *Odontoglossums*. It was sold at Stevens’s, by auction, some five or six years since, I think, where we bought our plants. Mr. Rucker now has a plant showing bloom with eleven flower-buds, so that we cannot at present say what it may come to by cultivation. It is very distinct and fine; it requires just the same treatment as the *O. Alexandra*, *Pescatorci*, etc. In style of growth it more resembles *O. neriium*.”

The plant as now figured exhibits considerable variety in the markings. The lip, as will be seen, is white, and very deeply serrated at the edge, marked with brownish spots, more or less confluent; the sepals and petals are of a pale primrose-yellow, strikingly and variedly marked with chocolate-coloured spots. We should add that in order to meet the exigencies of the Plate, it has been necessary to somewhat shorten the footstalks, which are in nature about two inches and a half in length.



PLATE 379.

IBERIS CARNOSA.

Among the signs of a more healthy state of feeling on the subject of horticulture, which we have noticed during the past year, has been the increased taste for hardy perennials and alpine plants; and we are glad to find that they are receiving from our leading societies the attention which they deserve, but which has been so much directed of late years to the more vulgar but showy style of gardening. There is certainly no firm in England which has devoted more attention to these most desirable plants than the well-known one of Messrs. Backhouse and Son, of York, to whom we are indebted for the opportunity of figuring the charming little gem *Iberis carnosa*.

Alpine plants may be grown successfully in pots with the soil suitable for them, although they unquestionably thrive best on rockwork, naturally enough, as being more in accordance with their native habitat; but in whatever way grown, there are some few points necessary to be borne in mind in order to ensure their successful cultivation. "Rapid and perfect drainage combined with an equally rapid and continuous supply of water is essential to thoroughly healthy development;" and as the plants, generally speaking, especially those from the higher mountain-ranges, are generally exposed to high winds and a clear atmosphere, it is recommended not to place them in the shade in summer for the sake of coolness, the soft and humid atmosphere of such situations being most injurious to their development. Again, it is, we are told, a mistake to suppose that because a plant is small, therefore it does not require deep soil, and as instance of this it is stated that "*Gentiana verna*, a very small plant, requires for its full development eighteen inches depth at least of rich fibrous loam, interspersed

thickly with blocks of limestone," and lastly, it "is very necessary to suspend the abundant supply of moisture, essential for health in spring and summer, when the annual growth is made, as to coax the plants to be quiet as far as possible, and prevent a second and enfeebling growth."

Iberis carnosu is a very dwarf, fleshy-leaved species, from the valleys of the Pyrenees, with showy heads of shaded purplish-rose and white flowers, sometimes so large as nearly to eclipse the whole plant, which is frequently not more than two inches high. It was awarded a first class certificate by the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society when exhibited last spring.



PLATE 380.

JAPANESE CHRYSANTHEMUMS, RED DRAGON
AND LEOPARD.

When, some years ago, we figured one of the Chrysanthemums which Mr. Fortune had introduced from Japan, we expressed our conviction that, strange and bizarre as they were in appearance, they would yet, in the hands of some of our hybridizers, be found useful as the parents of a new race. The present season has demonstrated the truth of our anticipations, and the Japanese Chrysanthemums of Mr. Salter have created quite a sensation in the horticultural world. From his very numerous varieties we have selected two, premising that the collection embraces many forms, some (as *Tarantula*) almost like a spade, others like large tassels of cut paper; some of very large dimensions, others just suitable for bouquets, while they also possess a quality which will make them especially useful, viz. that of blooming after the Chinese varieties, so that they will be admirable winter-blooming plants, filling up the time between the autumnal bloom and the early-flowering spring plants.

Mr. Fortune states that when he collected the varieties in Japan, he left them at Shanghai in charge of a Chinese gardener, but that owing to the heavy autumnal rains, the finest were lost, and only about a dozen kinds reached England. "And now," he adds, "I come to the most curious part of my story. Mr. Salter, of Hammersmith, having procured seed from one, or at most two only of those varieties introduced by me, has raised a large number of new kinds, not only differing in colour but in form also from the plant or plants from which he obtained his seeds, but identical or nearly so with the varieties now cultivated in Japan, and which I lost on the journey

home. This result, moreover, in my opinion, has not been obtained by hybridizing, for the simple reason that the pollen of the kinds now produced could not be obtained in Europe. It would appear, therefore, that in so far as the Chrysanthemum is concerned, we are in possession of one variety only; we may make it reproduce all the other varieties in cultivation in those countries from whence it came, or, at least, varieties so like them in form and colour of the flowers as not to be distinguished from them; in fact, flowers are produced not only differing in colour from the parent, which is a small matter, but entirely different in form also."

Of the two now figured, *Red Dragon* (Fig. 2) is a flower of very large size and striking appearance, the long, thread-like petals reminding one of the tentacula of some of the sea anemones, bright red tipped with gold. *Leopard* (Fig. 1) is a curious spotted flower of smaller size, not unlike in the style of its markings to some of the Orchids. Mr. Salter has a large number of very remarkable varieties to be sent out this spring along with the Chinese Chrysanthemums, and we have no doubt that they will prove great acquisitions to all lovers of flowers.



PLATE 381.

GESNERA EXONIENSIS.

There are few plants more suitable for the decoration of the greenhouse than those comprised under the term Gesneraceous. In the summer, the Achimenes, Tydasas, Gloxinias, etc., give a continuous and showy bloom; while some of the Gesneras are admirable for winter decoration, not only showy in the brilliant colouring of the flowers, but also remarkable for the richness of their foliage.

Two of the most remarkable of these are *Gesnera refulgens* and *Gesnera zebrina*, and from these Messrs. Lacombe, Pince, and Co., of Exeter, have obtained the very beautiful variety which we now figure, one of those winter-flowering kinds which are so eagerly coveted by all who possess a greenhouse. The raisers inform us that nothing can be imagined more brilliant than the masses of bloom, which are quite twelve inches through in some of the plants, even although growing only in five-inch pots. The colour of the flowers is an intense orange-scarlet, with yellow throat, and, as will be observed from the Plate, cluster very thickly together. The leaf is of a very dark, rich velvety texture, and studded all over with minute red hairs, which give it a remarkable appearance, almost like plush; and according to the light in which they are held, the leaves assume a different hue, in some lights having a bright carmine shade across it, and in others a dull brown. The value of this plant may be gathered from the fact that the raisers of it have had one particular plant in bloom for four successive months during the dark months of winter, and that it is not yet out of bloom (in March). It is one of those plants, too, which will make an excellent one for table decoration, as the rich dark velvety hue of the leaves and the colour

of the flowers would contrast admirably with the white cloth which it is now the fashion to have always on. We may add, that the cultivation of the plant is exceedingly easy, differing in no respect from the well-known varieties from which it has been raised.



CROTON MAXIMUS.

The Euphorbiaceous plants are many of them known for their medicinal and poisonous properties. Many of them furnish the Africans and Brazilians with a mortal poison for their arrows. The milky juice which some of them emit when punctured, if rubbed into the eyes, produces inflammation, and even blindness; while some, such as *Croton*, *Cascarilla* and *Euphorbia*, are valuable drugs. To it belongs also the *Manihot* or *Cassava*, which, although, when eaten raw, is a violent poison, yet when roasted, becomes a wholesome and nutritious food. Many of the genera are very ornamental, and none more so than the *Crotons*, which have supplied so many valuable plants to our conservatories and exhibitions, not on account of the brilliancy of their flowers, but for the singularity and beauty of their foliage.

Croton maximus is one of the results of the voyage of Mr. John Gould Veitch amongst the South Sea Islands, a voyage which, while it has enabled him to add many plants interesting both to the botanist and horticulturist, has been injurious to his own health, owing to the zeal and energy with which he entered into it. We have seen the collection of *Crotons* which he was enabled to collect at that time; they are all of them beautiful; "but of them all this is the largest and broadest yellow-leaf species; it is of robust habit, and will no doubt make a fine exhibition plant. The leaves are often a foot long, and three to four inches wide, and it is certainly a great advance on all at present in cultivation." The leaf, as will be seen from the drawing, is of a rich golden colour, marked on each side of the midrib with dark olive-green bands of irregular form. One leaf has been drawn by Mr. Andrews, of the natural size, while he

has also introduced a small spray, reduced in size, to show the general effect of the plant. Like nearly all the species of Croton, *C. maximus* is a stove evergreen shrub, and succeeds well in a mixture of loam and peat, not sifted, and the pot to be well drained. Cuttings root readily in heat, placed in white sand. We have no doubt that, as it is to be let out this season, ere long it will find its way into many exhibitions of foliaged plants.

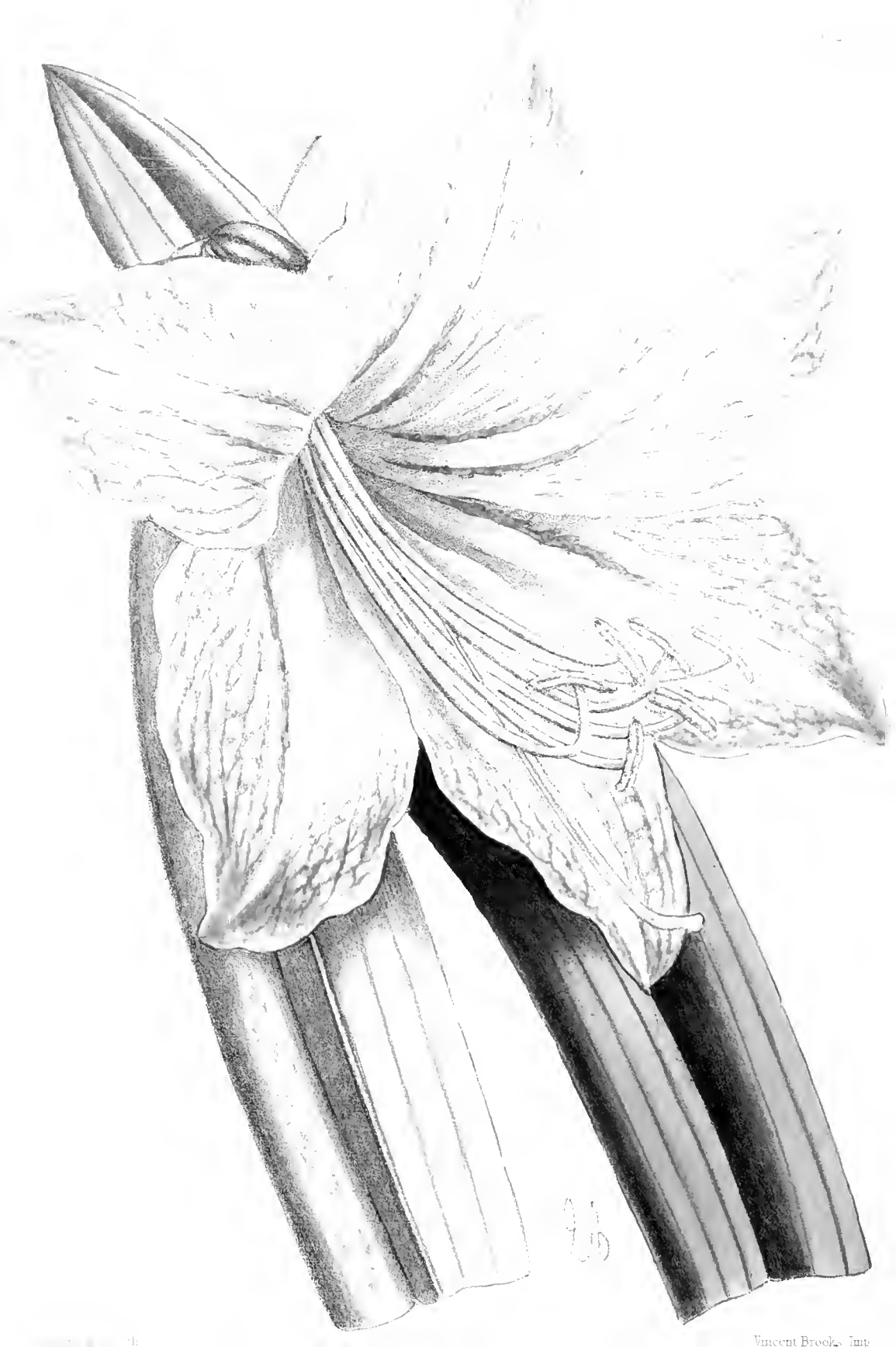


PLATE 383.

AMARYLLIS, PRINCE TECK.

Among those flowers to which more attention has been paid on the Continent than in this country, is the Amaryllis, it being very largely used in room decoration, for which its large, showy flowers, of great substance, make it admirably suited. However, of late years it has come more into favour, although even now there is no establishment in this country which can compete with some of those in Belgium and France, where thousands of them are grown and a large number of seedlings produced every year.

At the International Horticultural Exhibition, some very fine varieties were produced, and a stimulus thereby given to their growth, which, we trust, will result in greater attention being given to them; and we have seen, in our visits to various nurseries, such as Mr. Williams's, of Holloway, Mr. Cutbush's, of Highgate, Mr. Veitch's, of Chelsea, and others, very fine plants. We are indebted to the latter well-known firm for the opportunity of figuring the very fine variety in our Plate, of which Mr. Harry Veitch says, "It is an English-raised seedling, of which we purchased the entire stock, and for colouring, size of bloom, and shape, bears comparison with any kinds we have yet seen from the Continent." The colour of the ground is a soft creamy yellow, which runs down in a narrow band through the centre of each petal. The edges of the petals are deep carmine-crimson, and singularly marked with netted lines of the same colour, a narrow line of it being continued along each side of the yellow band in the centre. Altogether it is a remarkably fine flower.

Some doubts were expressed as to the correctness of the figure given in our last volume of *Hippastrum pardinum*, as

compared with another which appeared in the 'Botanical Magazine.' We were confident of its correctness at the time, as we were sure Mr. Andrews could not be mistaken. This season has revealed the fact that there are very many varieties of it, differing very much both in colouring and form, quite as much as does *Lilium auratum*, of which we have some pure white, others with a crimson instead of a yellow band; some with broad petals, others with narrow ones, and, indeed, with the greatest diversity of character, so that it needs some caution to be exercised before pronouncing on the character of flowers when introduced from abroad.

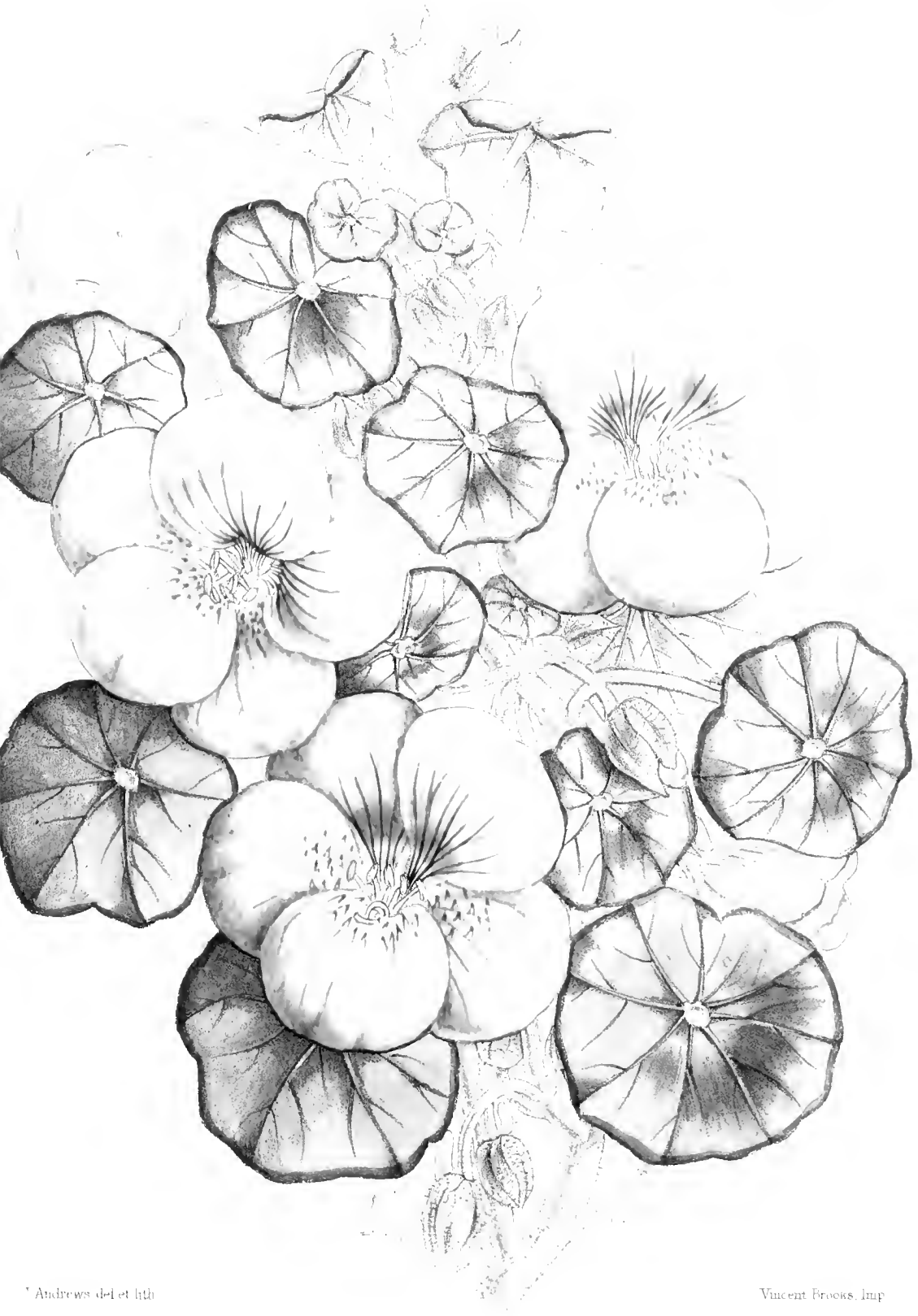


ONCIDIUM CALANTHUM.

The great and increasing interest which is being taken in the cultivation of Orchids, is manifested by the very large number of new species which are being added to our lists from abroad, as well as by the efforts of hybridizers at home; and especially has this been the case since the culture of cool-house Orchids has been so successfully carried out in various places,—affording, as it does, opportunities for persons of moderate means and appliances for carrying on their cultivation.

The class of *Oncidium* has already afforded many very beautiful species, well known in our Orchid-houses, the beautiful *Oncidium papilio*, by its singular likeness to a butterfly, often surprising those who are ignorant what the fluttering flower may be; and several species of late introduction still seem to keep up the interest of the class,—amongst these, the very beautiful species which we now figure, which was not long ago exhibited by the Messrs. Backhouse and Son, of York, at a meeting of the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and from them received a first-class certificate. We are informed by Messrs. Backhouse that it was obtained by their collector from the high Cordilleras of Ecuador; and as it is from a high and cool region, its treatment will be similar to that of other species from the cooler regions of Ecuador, Mexico, etc. The colour of the flower is a brilliant yellow, that of the labellum being deeper than the petals or sepals; it is very free in its growth, and the bloom is very abundantly produced; and as it blooms in winter or very early in spring, at a season when flowers are of the greatest value, it will be the more appreciated. The loose and elongated flower-stems detract

somewhat from its merits, but its other excellent properties will far outweigh this defect; and, we doubt not, it will be considered by most Orchid-growers as a valuable acquisition.



TROPÆOLUM, MRS. TREADWELL.

So long as the present system of bedding-out continues in vogue (and some modification of it must needs ever be the fashion, although its extravagancies may be curtailed), so long will those plants which produce brilliant scarlet flowers be valued. The Zonale Geranium will take perhaps the foremost place; but we are inclined to think that the different varieties of scarlet-flowering *Tropæolums* will be nearly, if not quite as effective. In long ribbon borders especially are they very useful, where excellence of habit is combined with profusion of bloom.

There has been, in a former year, figured in the pages of the 'Floral Magazine,' a very fine variety useful for this purpose; Henderson's *Ball of Fire*, and the flowers of other raisers, have been highly recommended and largely used for this purpose; but the variety which we now figure will, we believe, surpass all others that have been used hitherto. It is utterly impossible in some colours to give the hues of nature, although there are persons who are constantly speaking of the exaggerations of flower-painters. In no colour is this more apparent than in scarlet; it needs but to place any scarlet flower alongside the most brilliant colour of the artist to at once see how immeasurably short it falls of the original; and thus it is impossible to give the brilliant hue of this very fine *Tropæolum*.

Mrs. Treadwell was exhibited by the Messrs. F. and H. Smith, of Dulwich, before the Floral Committee, and was accorded a first-class certificate. It has been considered by all who have seen it as surpassing all varieties hitherto in cultivation. Its habit is exceedingly dwarf and compact, remarkably

profuse in its blooming, while the foliage is of a dark green, contrasting well with the deep scarlet of the flowers, and altogether forming a plant suitable either for bedding-out or for growing in vases. It is now being distributed, and will be largely grown, we doubt not, this summer.



ONCIDIUM MACRANTHUM HASTIFERUM.

No little interest was excited amongst not only the general public but amongst our Orchid-growers themselves, by the specimen of this very beautiful Orchid which appeared at one of the recent fortnightly meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society. It was a plant excellently grown and flowered by Mr. Richards, gardener to the Earl of Londesborough, a nobleman who has of late years taken a great interest in this lovely and varied family. Since then, it has been exhibited by Messrs. Veitch and Son; while, to show the persistency of the bloom, the plant exhibited by Lord Londesborough was again shown, a month afterwards, in full vigour and beauty. It is this which constitutes one great point of value in some of the Orchids; some indeed, like the Stanhopeas, are evanescent enough, but others last for weeks in bloom, without showing any deterioration in their beautifully striking blooms.

The flowers of Orchids rarely exhibit anything like regularity of outline; but while looking at this plant exhibited by Messrs. Veitch, at a meeting of the Floral Committee, one of our most celebrated botanists accosted us with the remark, "This would almost do for a florist;" and it will be seen that there is a regularity of outline in *Oncidium macranthum hastiferum* very unusual amongst Orchids. The colour is of a rich golden yellow; the flowers, as might be supposed, from their continuing so long in bloom, are of a very great substance; while the lilac markings contrast well with the richness of the golden yellow of the petals and sepals; the spike is long, and the number of flowers will vary with the character of culti-

vation. It is believed to be a native of Peru, and cool treatment will suit it best. We are indebted to Messrs. Veitch and Son, of Chelsea, for the opportunity of figuring this very fine Orchid.



PLATE 387.

VARIETIES OF PERSIAN CYCLAMEN.

We had not the opportunity of seeing the wonderful plants of Cyclamen, exhibited by Mr. Wiggins, gardener to Mr. Walter Beck, of Weston Cottage, Isleworth; but we have been informed by various lovers of flowers that there was not, during this present spring, any collection of plants that elicited more admiration or warmer eulogiums than they did. The wonderful cultivation to which they had been subjected had produced, at only eighteen months from the sowing of the seed, plants with hundreds of bloom, rising out of a foliage that completely conceal the pots. We, last year, figured some of Mr. Wiggins's seedlings, and gave a statement of his method of treatment. We now give figures of some of his more recent seedlings; and a reference to the former Plate (339) will at once show that great advance has been obtained in the variety of colouring introduced into them.

Purity (Fig. 1) is a pure white variety. It is always impossible to give anything like an idea of the purity of white flowers in a drawing, but we can testify that a plant in our own greenhouse has been the admiration of everybody this spring; its pure white blossoms rising beautifully above the foliage. *Delicate* (Fig. 2) is a white flower with a light pink base to the petals, much lighter than any we have hitherto seen. *Mauve Queen* (Fig. 3) is a remarkably coloured flower of a dull mauve, deeper at the base of the petals. *Excellent* (Fig. 4) is a very large flower, with deep carmine crimson base. *Novelty* (Fig. 5) is a very remarkable flower; the petals are white, with the upper part light pink, and the base a very deep maroon-crimson, a colour we have not as yet seen in these flowers; while *Firefly* (Fig. 6) is the very deepest coloured Cyclamen

in this section that has yet been raised. While there is a very great difficulty in propagating these plants, there can be no doubt that seed saved from such flowers as these must produce an immense variety, and that further advances in size and form may be expected.



ATACCLA CRISTATA.

We have occasionally given in the pages of the 'Floral Magazine' figures and descriptions of plants, which, although long since introduced, have either through the difficulty of cultivation, the rarity of the species, or the eager rush for novelty, been put on one side to make way for newer discoveries or more showy plants. Such has been the case with *Ataccia cristata*, and the recent exhibition of it by the Messrs. Veitch and Son, of Chelsea, induces us to figure it, although it was figured so far back as 1854, in Van Houtte's 'Flore des Serres.'

As remarked by the accomplished editor of 'Flore des Serres,' the foliage of *Ataccia* is somewhat similar to *Dieffenbachia Sequoia*, but its chief point of interest is the singular inflorescence, consisting of an umbel, with lengthened footstalks of dark flowers, among which hang as long threads the peduncles of the "*fleurs avortées*." This character he called "*Melusean*," and adds, "indigenous to the peninsula and Malay isles, it was there discovered by its first describer, W. Jack. This beautiful species was introduced about four years ago (*i.e.* in 1850) into England, under the name of *Ataccia* or *Tacca integrifolia* (Kerr) (*Tacca aspera* of Roxburgh), an Indian species of the delta of the Ganges;" and adds that perhaps now one would vainly search for it in collections. In this it will be seen he is mistaken, as it is to be found where all that is rare and novel is sure to be looked after,—the establishment of Messrs. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea. It was from their plant that, through their kind permission, Mr. Andrews was enabled to make this very beautiful and accurate figure.

It is, as might be supposed from the locality from whence it

was introduced, a plant that requires the atmosphere of a moist stove, and does not present any difficulty of treatment; so that those who admire curious and striking forms may add this to their collections.



PLATE 389.

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSE, DUKE OF
EDINBURGH.

We have again to welcome an addition to our English raised Roses, in the brilliant-coloured flower figured in our present Plate; for it is not one raised abroad and then purchased by some English grower, and given an English name, but a veritable seedling raised by the well-known firm of Paul and Son, of Cheshunt.

It may be too early yet, perhaps, to speak of the prospects of the present Rose season, but according to all present appearances, it will be an early and short one. We have experienced weather more like the heats of July and August than May, and even before the month is more than half out, Roses are pushing forward rapidly into bloom everywhere, and seem as forward as we have seen them in other years in the neighbourhood of Paris at this time of the year. This may all be altered before another fortnight; but as far as we can judge now, all the Rose Shows, except that at the Crystal Palace, will be too late.

We have had this year an excellent opportunity of judging of the value of the Manetty stock, having had occasion to remove our Roses to our present residence; we were not able to lift them until the beginning of March, and notwithstanding the wonderfully dry weather we have had since, very nearly all of them have taken root and are pushing freely. Had they been Briars, it would have been impossible to have moved them with any degree of success; and as we have known our friend Mr. Radclyffe to have moved them on the 23rd of August, it seems that there is not any time, except in the height of summer, when Roses in this valuable stock may not be transplanted.

Duke of Edinburgh, as will be seen from Mr. Andrews' admirable figure, is a very high-coloured scarlet-crimson flower, richly shaded with maroon; the petals are large, broad, and of good substance, while the general habit of the plant is excellent, blooming very profusely, and showing great vigour of constitution. It also forces very well, and seems to be a very desirable acquisition.



PLATE 390.

EPIDENDRUM IBAGUENSE.

Although not by any means one of the most showy of those Orchids which have recently been either introduced or reintroduced into this country, owing to the impulse that has been given to Orchid-growing by the introduction of the method of cool treatment adopted of late years, yet are there some points in connection with it which will, we think, tend to give it a place amongst those more showy kinds which are such general favourites.

The colour of the flowers is not a usual one amongst Orchids; their scarlet-orange tint, contrasted with the deep yellow of the lip, tends to give it a very rich appearance, while the terminal clusters of which they consist add to their appearance. Then, like *Epidendrum vitellinum*, it blossoms early in the year, and indeed in the winter months, when every flower is a valuable addition from the scarcity that prevails at that period; while, from its habitat, it easily adapts itself to the cool treatment under which so many of the Orchids have thriven of late years. All these are qualities which cannot fail to recommend it to that class of Orchid-growers whose means are limited, and who cannot therefore indulge in an East Indian house.

We are informed by the Messrs. Backhouse and Sons, of the well-known firm at York, by whose permission we figure it, that "*Epidendrum Ibaguense* is from the elevated regions of the Cordilleras of Ecuador; it grows very freely in our Mexican house," where the thermometer falls to 40° or lower in winter. We find it succeed best on branches exposed to rather strong light though shaded in measure from the hot sun. It should

be syringed while growing freely two or three times a day." They also say that, as far as they are aware, it is the first time that it has flowered in England; and they also consider that, owing to the qualities which we have already mentioned, it is likely to be a general favourite.

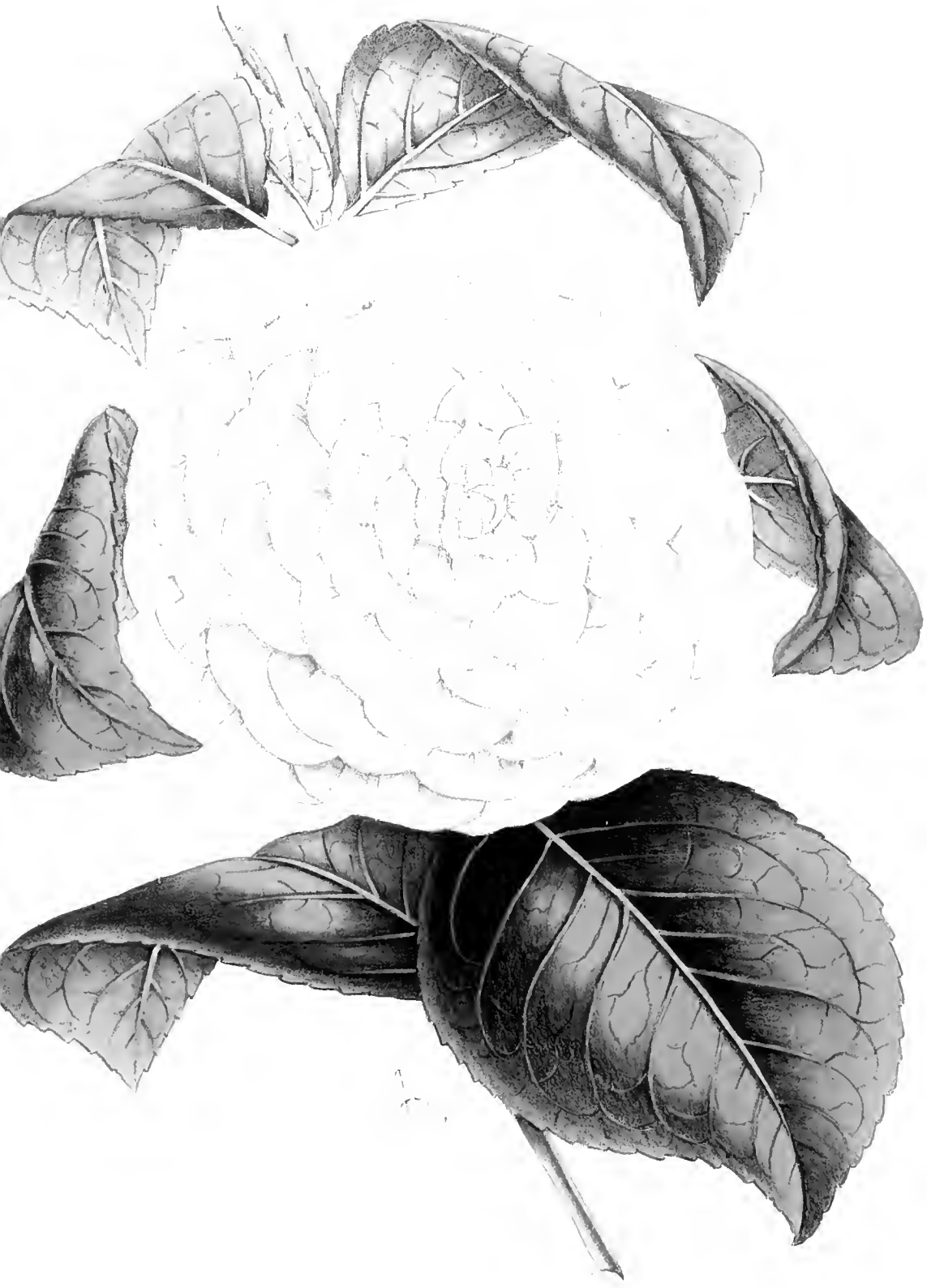


PLATE 391.

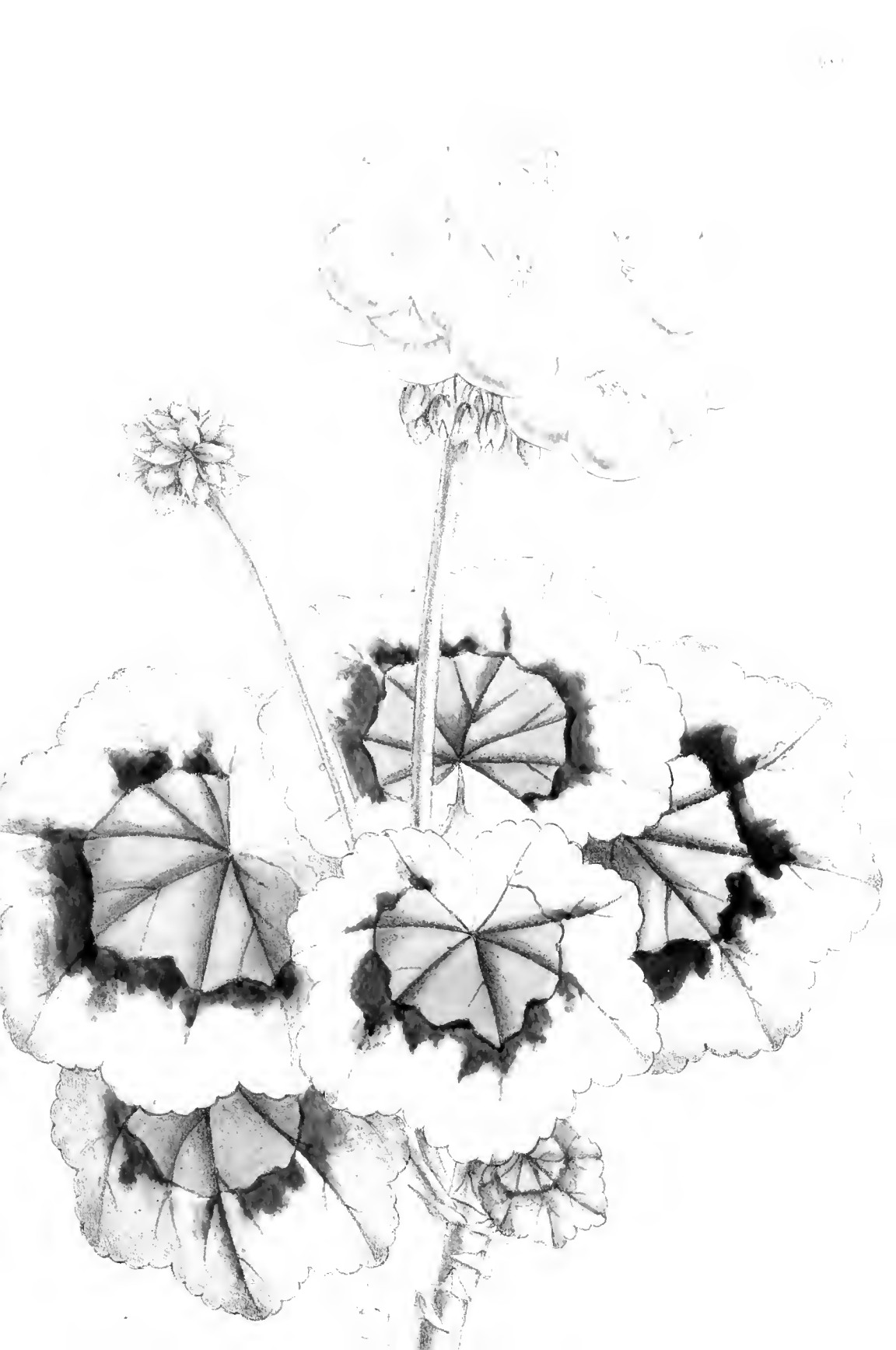
CAMELLIA, MADAME AMBROISE
VERSCHAFFELT.

We may be tolerably certain that when a florist gives the name of his wife to a flower, he regards it as one of surpassing excellence; and we were therefore quite prepared to find *Madame Ambroise Verschaffelt* to be a Camellia of first-rate character, and this will, we think, be the opinion of every one who sees the Plate which we give of it, for whether for form, size, or regularity of colouring, it would be difficult to imagine a more lovely flower.

The culture of the Camellia is, as all are aware, carried out to its greatest perfection in Belgium, and especially in Ghent; and those who visited the International Exhibition there during the past spring speak in the warmest terms of the very fine specimens of this beautiful flowering shrub which were exhibited. The question may naturally be asked, Why do we not, as a rule, succeed so well with them in England? for that we do not is, we believe, a generally admitted fact. It must surely arise from some error in cultivation, for in point of climate they certainly have not the advantage. We are inclined to think, then, that it is owing to the fact that the Camellia is much more liberally shaded and watered there than with us, especially in the periods of its growth. The soil which we have used lately is loam, without any admixture of any kind. The top spit of a pasture being taken off and broken in pieces, and the plants firmly potted in it, they are kept in the greenhouse shaded with tiffany and well syringed; from this position we do not remove them. But in Belgium it is the custom to place them out-of-doors, in alleys formed by tall hedges, so that they are completely shaded from the rays of the sun, and

in this position they are left until September, the foliage being of a rich green, and the bloom-buds well formed by that time.

Madame Ambroise Verschaffelt is a flower of large size, the general colour a light pinkish-blush, each petal having one or more distinct flakes of bright pink, quite as regular as in many of the varieties of Carnations. The foliage is large and ample, and we have to express our obligation to Mr. Verschaffelt for the opportunity of figuring it.



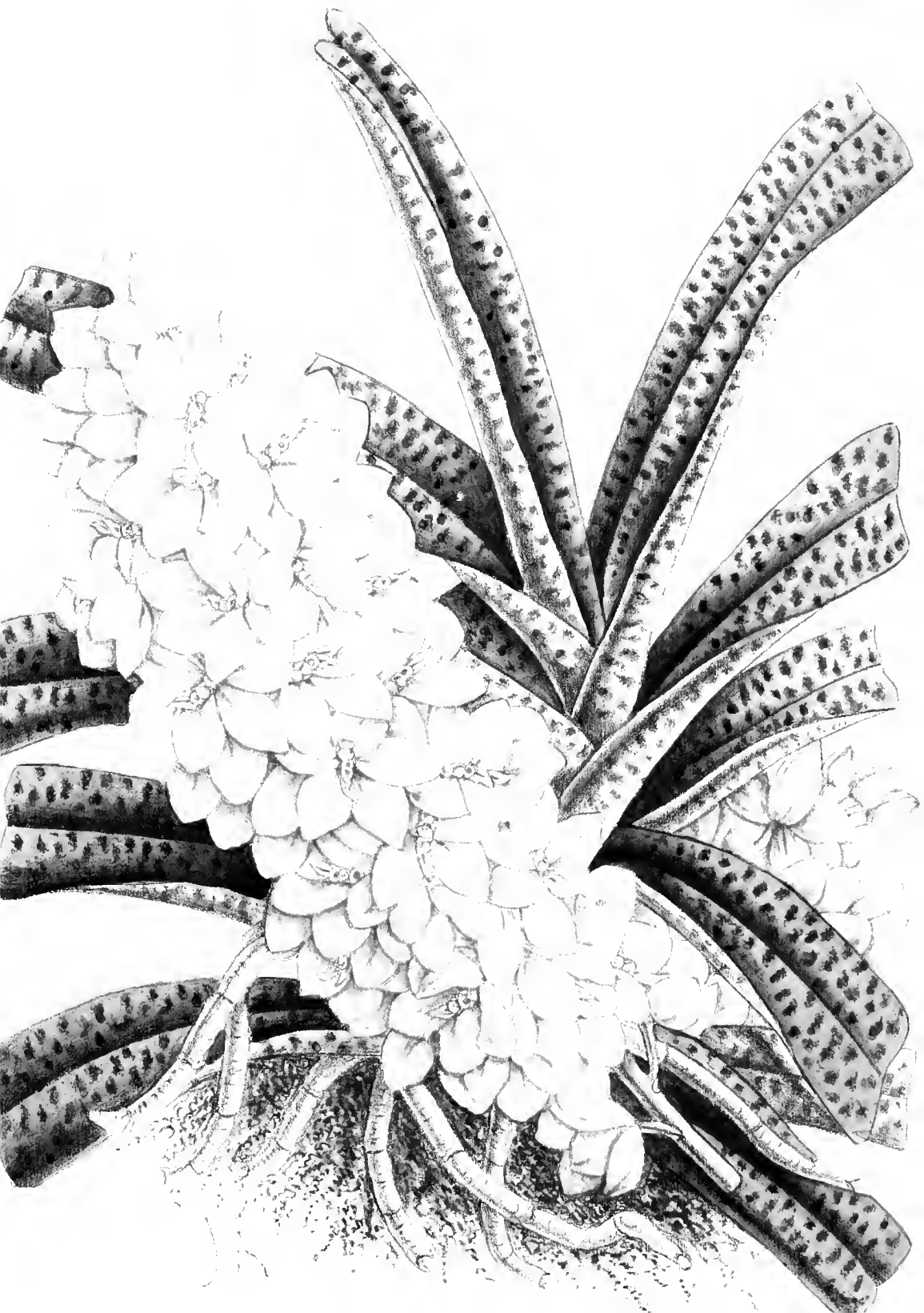
TRICOLOR PELARGONIUM, STAR OF INDIA.

Of all the flowers of the present day, there is hardly one perhaps so popular, so universally admired, and so generally grown as the tricolor-leaved Geranium, *Mrs. Pollock*; while the varieties that are from time to time put forward will soon create so much confusion, as to make weeding out an absolute necessity. Thus we have now before us two catalogues, in one of which we find forty new varieties, and in another eleven, varying in price from one to three guineas, and of necessity many of them presenting so great a similarity to one another that only the eye of a very practised connoisseur would be able to distinguish them. Besides, there are few firms of any eminence who have not had one or more of this favourite class to send out, so the kinds will soon be numbered by hundreds.

Among those varieties which we have seen this season, Rollison's *Star of India*, which we now by their permission figure, seems to us to be one of the best. The colouring of the foliage is good, and the habit of the plant excellent. It partakes more of the character of *Sunset* than of *Mrs. Pollock*, the edges of the leaves being deeply cut, and the surface considerably more smooth, while the colouring is richer than either, the bright crimson flame which breaks in and through the deep maroon band being excessively rich. The golden edge of the leaves is very decided, and the green in the centre light and distinct. Messrs. Rollison inform us that the habit of the plant is very free, and this we should gather from our own plants, which are long-jointed and branching.

We have found in the cultivation of this very beautiful class of plants, that they delight in a rich friable soil, in plenty of light and air, the sun seeming to bring out the brilliancy of

their leaf-colouring; while, as a rule, their roots are more delicate than the ordinary general varieties. The colour of the flowers (which are of good form), is a rich, bright, scarlet-crimson, the truss being good, and the flowers freely produced.



SACCOLABIUM AMPULLACEUM ROSEUM.

The extensive and varied family of the *Orchidaceæ* supply us with flowers of the most varying character, both for colouring, the form of the individual flowers, and the character of the bloom. What seemingly more diverse than the flower of *Oncidium Papilio*, poised on the extremity of its long stem of four or five feet in length, and the large dense mass of *Saccolabium giganteum*! what more diverse in colour than the pure white flower of *Phalanopsis ambalis*, and the bright rosy bloom of the species we now figure! In other tribes we gain a greater similarity of form, but in Orchids there seems to be no end to the freaks of nature.

The very beautiful *Saccolabium* which Mr. Andrews has so exquisitely rendered, was exhibited during the past spring by the Messrs. Rollisson, of Tooting, and at a Meeting of the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society was awarded a first-class certificate. They have been kind enough to furnish us with the following notes as to its culture, etc.:—

“*Saccolabium ampullaceum roseum* is a native of Moulmein, and the treatment which succeeds best with it is that which is adopted with its congeners, requiring in the growing season, as at the present time, a tolerable supply of moisture, and thriving best if placed in a wooden basket slung up to the rafters of the Orchid-house.

“The particular plant exhibited by us, and awarded a certificate by the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, we consider to be, without any exception, the very finest variety ever introduced into the country.”



CLEMATIS, JOHN GOULD VEITCH.

There is not among our many fine hardy climbing plants one that has of late years received more attention, or been more enriched by new additions, than the Clematis. The introduction from Japan of those two fine varieties, *Standishii* and *Fortunei*, and then the very successful operations of Messrs. Jackman and Son with *Clematis lanuginosa* and others, have led to results which we have already noticed in the 'Floral Magazine.' As trailing plants, too, they have been very extensively used; and although we have not ourselves had, as yet, the opportunity of seeing them so used, we can well believe that they must be effective, especially as the colour is one in which we are very deficient in bedding plants.

The plant which we now figure evidently is closely allied to *Clematis Fortunei*, and will make a most desirable variety, intermixed with the darker kinds, such as *C. Jackmanii* and *Prince of Wales*. And, again, we have in such kinds as *Lady Bovill*, large lavender-coloured flowers, with broad and slightly cupped petals, which are especially showy, so that it is impossible to imagine anything more beautiful than a trellis on which these flowers were trained, either separately or intermixed. With regard to this variety, we are indebted to the Messrs. Veitch and Sons for the following account of it:—

'We cannot too strongly recommend this magnificent DOUBLE BLUE-flowering Clematis as a *most valuable* addition to our *hardy* climbers. It is a profuse bloomer, the flowers being *very double*, of a large size (averaging four inches in diameter), and of a *beautiful light blue* colour. It thrives remarkably well when planted out-of-doors, and when grown in pots it is most striking and very free blooming, plants grown by us this

spring having had as many as fourteen beautiful blooms expanded at one time. It was imported direct from Japan, and will doubtless be most extensively grown.

“We exhibited this splendid plant at the International Exhibition at Paris in 1867, and again at the International Exhibition held at Ghent in March, 1868, as well as at the Royal Horticultural Society’s Show, held April 21st, 1868.

“It was universally admired, and considered one of the best and most striking novelties of recent introduction, and it invariably received the highest possible awards.”



AZALEA, SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

The past two seasons have not brought many additions to our Azaleas in the way of new and promising varieties. Some few years back we had a large number of new sorts, both from foreign and home raisers; but neither this season nor last have many of any great novelty been exhibited. And hence we gladly take the opportunity of figuring one which we believe to be the finest flower of the season, and a most novel and distinct sort.

The exhibitions of Azaleas this season have been characterized by the production of probably the finest plants that have ever been brought forward, and we believe for the last time, in the neighbourhood of London, as we understand that Mr. Turner has disposed of some of his most remarkable and well-known plants, and that they will from henceforth grace the exhibitions in the neighbourhood of Manchester, as neither in Azaleas nor Pelargoniums is it his intention to exhibit as he has heretofore done. No change has taken place as yet in the manner in which Azaleas are exhibited, the same stiff and cramped forms being seen at all the shows. It seems to us very undesirable; for when we were visiting the grounds of Archdeacon Crofts, at Saltwood, near Hythe, we saw plants of *Azalea Indica alba*, which had been grown in the open ground for years, and for beauty of form and profusion of bloom could hardly be equalled anywhere.

We are indebted to the well-known firm of Messrs. F. and A. Smith, of Dulwich, by whom it was raised, for the opportunity of figuring this fine variety. It is, as will be seen from the Plate, of medium size, but of by far the deepest shade of crimson that has yet been produced amongst Azaleas. The habit

of the plant is good, foliage small and neat, and the flowers abundantly produced; altogether *Sir Robert Napier* may well be regarded as a valuable addition to the already fine Azaleas in cultivation, and as such was awarded a first-class certificate by the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society.

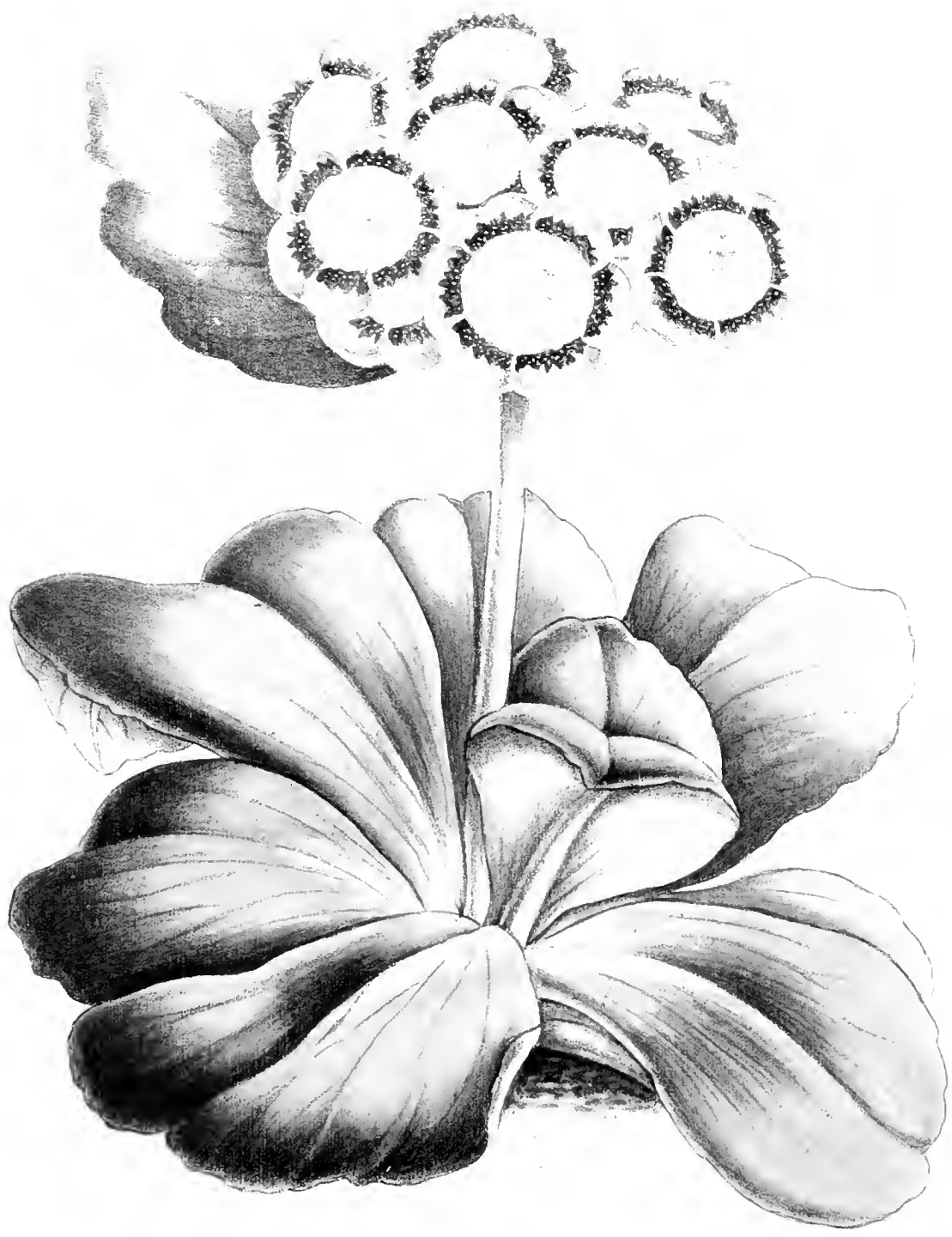


PLATE 396.

AURICULA, JOHN WATERSTON.

In looking through our collection of this beautiful spring flower, and noting especially the newer varieties, we were very much struck by the exquisite symmetry and fine shape of the variety which we now figure, and which was raised by the same gentleman to whom we were indebted for the variety *Peter Campbell*, figured in our last volume—Mr. Cunningham, of Kilbrachan, near Johnstone, in Scotland. We compared it carefully with *George Lightbody*, considered the finest grey-edged variety in cultivation, and were strongly impressed with the idea that, if not superior, the northern variety is at any rate equal to the southern one.

A great difference of opinion is entertained as to the proper period of re-potting the Auricula, the older writers on the subject generally maintaining late potting, viz. August, while some of the more modern ones advocate the earlier period, May. A writer has recently proposed July; but we think it decidedly objectionable, and maintain that, as far as the south of England is concerned, re-potting immediately after the bloom is over, or seed saved (if that is required), succeeds best,—the plants are then in an active state; and if this activity is encouraged, roots are formed, and they become well established before the autumn sets in, and then very little watering is required until winter is over and the spring top-dressing takes place. This is our own plan, and with us it has succeeded very well.

John Waterston is a flower of great refinement, the proportions of eye, paste, body, colour, and edge being well maintained, the foliage is strong and of a bright green, and the

habit of the plant good. We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Cunningham for the plant, of which we first heard through Mr. A. Meiklejohn, of Raplock, near Stirling, who is a very successful grower, and, we may add, a fair and liberal dealer.



PLATE 397.

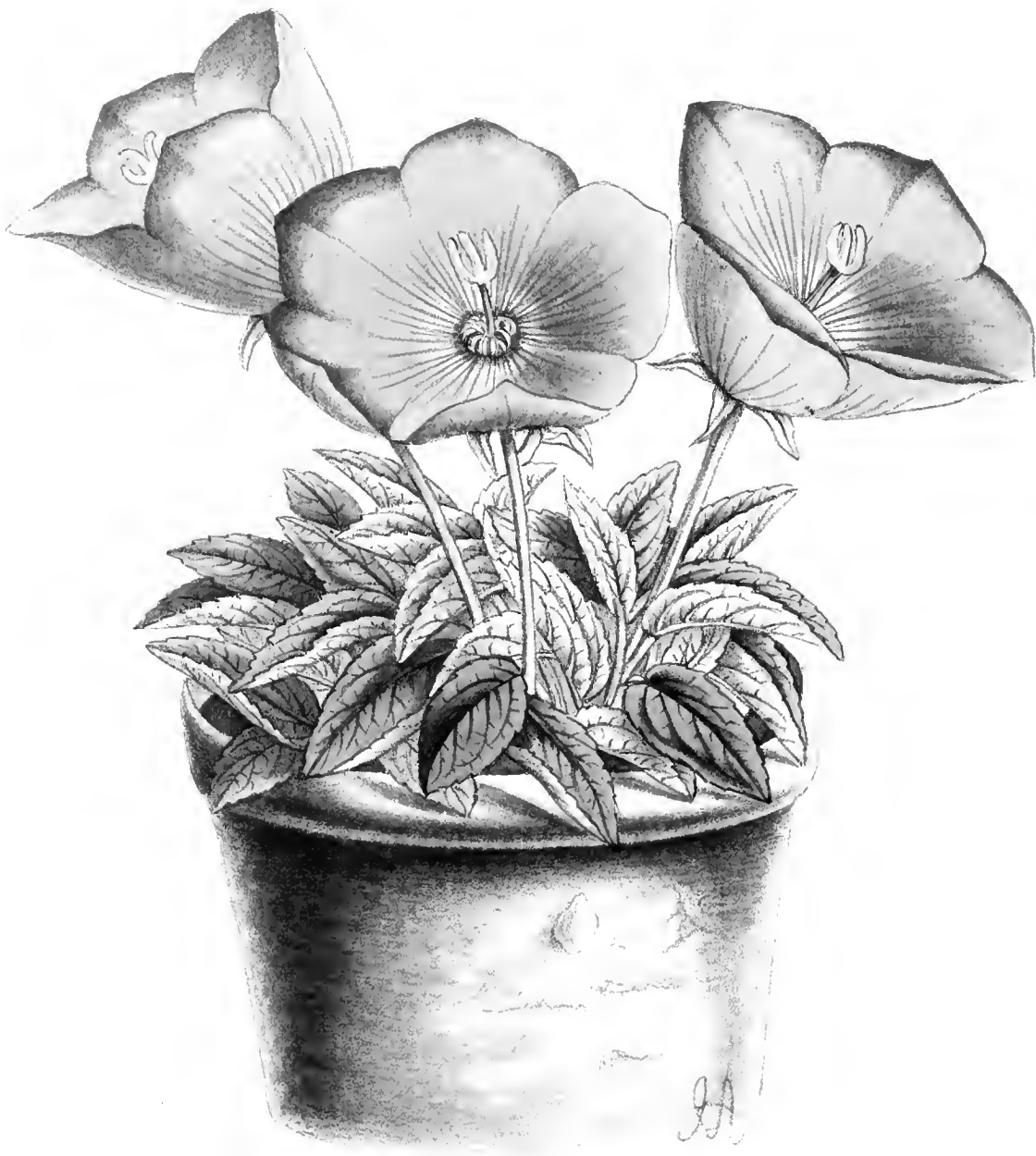
FANCY PELARGONIUMS, FANNY GAIR AND
MARMION.

Few seasons of late years have been so prolific in the production of new and valuable varieties of the Fancy Pelargonium as the present one, although they have been exhibited by but one raiser, Mr. Charles Turner, of Slough; from the numerous varieties of merit which have been brought forward we have selected two of the most striking for our illustration.

Owing, perhaps, to their being somewhat more difficult to manage than the ordinary show Pelargonium, the fancy varieties are not nearly so much grown, and yet for their profusion of bloom and distinctness of colouring they deserve the little extra care that is needed; smaller in size, more compact and neat in growth, they make pretty stage plants, and, under careful management, fine exhibition plants are readily made of them, indeed it is questionable whether they are not quite as much appreciated at our various floral exhibitions as their larger, and, perhaps, more showy congeners; probably no finer plants have ever been exhibited than those staged by the Messrs. Frazer, of Lea Bridge Road, at the Royal Botanic Society's Exhibition in June last.

Fanny Gair (Fig. 1) is a flower of very rich and bright colouring, approaching more nearly to the French variety, "*Roi des fantaisies*" than any other with which we are acquainted, but excelling that flower in the regularity of its outline and distinctness of its colouring; the lower petals are white, with a broad pencilled band of light crimson, very distinct and pretty; the upper petals are of a bright vivid crimson, with a very distinct narrow margin of white round them. *Princess Teck* (Fig. 2) is a darker flower, the upper petals being bright crimson, and the lower of a somewhat lighter shade, heavily

marked with deep crimson, finely veined or pencilled, all the petals being narrowly edged with a clear white margin ; it has also a pure white throat, which very much adds to its effectiveness. Besides these, Mr. Turner has other varieties of equal merit, which have obtained certificates wherever they have been exhibited this season, viz. *Brightness*, *Agrippa*, *Excelsior*, *Belle of the Season*, *East Lynn*, *Princess Teck*, *Leotard*, and *Mrs. Mendell*.



CAMPANULA TURBINATA.

The eminent firm of Backhouse and Son, of York, have long been distinguished for the zeal and energy with which they have cultivated Alpine plants, and we have very frequently enriched our pages with some of their beautiful introductions, which, although small, are some of them perfect gems in their way; and as in the flowers of the pretty deep blue *Gentianella*, the flowers seem greatly disproportioned to the dwarf foliage, so it is in the lovely *Campanula* which we now figure.

“*Campanula turbinata*,” say the Messrs. Backhouse, “is from the mountains of Transylvania, and is, perhaps, the most beautiful *Campanula* in cultivation, certainly one of the most beautiful; the flowers are as large as those of *Campanula carpatica*, but instead of having slender, decumbent, straggling stems, as in that species, this has short erect stems, heavy stalks and leaves, and erect flowers of a deep purple. The individual blooms in the plant figured must be nearly two inches across, the whole plant being, in this case, only some three or four inches high.” It thrives well in a common border, where it forms large tufts, the flowers standing four to eight inches high; but it is, perhaps, most effective in pots, or in the vertical fissures of rockwork, in the full sun. It delights in a rich loam, and is, of course, perfectly hardy, while strong plants of it remain many weeks in flower during the summer. We are not aware of any one having introduced it before ourselves.”

While crowds of worthless flowers, with high-sounding names, are being constantly brought before the public, only to be afterwards consigned to well-merited oblivion, such lovely gems as these are surely worthy of cultivation, and the Crystal Palace Company did well this season in offering prizes for

collections of them, at their June show. There was, we regret to add, no competition, although it is to be hoped that in future seasons, when longer notice is given, many will be brought forward.



PLATE 399.

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSE, LA FRANCE.

It is now two years since, walking through the gardens of M. Guillot *frs.*, at Lyons, we were attracted by the appearance of a Rose which seemed to us quite new in character, and which only then existed as a seedling. The raiser seemed proud of having obtained it, and predicted that it would be a general favourite when sent out. It is the Rose which we now figure.

The present season has been probably one of the most trying ever experienced by rose-growers. Nothing could have been more promising than their appearance early in the season, and we all looked forward to a most favourable year, but the long-continued drought effectually spoiled these bright anticipations. Roses were driven into bloom before they had time to develope themselves, consequently they lacked the size which they would otherwise have attained to, while the intensity of light and heat completely deprived them of their vivid colouring, especially in the more brilliant varieties; such kinds as *Charles Lefebvre*, *Pierre Notting*, *Madame Victor Verdier*, etc., being hardly distinguishable. Nor was this all; mildew and orange fungus soon began to show themselves, and in many places, especially where the soil has been very dry, they have played great havoc. It is in such a season as this that the value of mulching the ground and well watering it are seen.

La France has evidently a mixture of *Tea* and *Bourbon* blood in it; its perfume evidences that, as well as its habit of growth, and it is what many of the hybrid perpetuals are, only in name, evidently very free in its autumn flowering; it has one of the peculiarities of the Tea Roses, which slightly detracts from its merits, viz. an inclination to droop its head; this does not

take place in all the blooms. The colour of the petals, which are very large, is a beautiful bright pink, with white on the inside; this gives it a very silvery appearance, and altogether we believe that the raiser's anticipations, as to its being one of the best flowers of the year, will be correct.



PLATE 100.

POLYANTHUS, GOLDEN CROWN AND
BRACELET.

Among those flowers which in bygone days used to be very extensively cultivated, and which have shared the neglect of all florists' flowers, is the Polyanthus; while the common sorts have been sought after for spring gardening, the beautifully-laced flowers, which come up to the florists' standard, are comparatively neglected. Of late, however, there have been symptoms of the taste returning, and we have therefore deemed it desirable to give an illustration of two of the varieties raised by Mr. Higgins, of Isleworth (already favourably known for his greatly-improved varieties of Cyclamens), and exhibited by him at the Spring Shows in the Metropolis this year.

The Polyanthus is a permanent variety of the common Primrose, and, by those who cultivate it carefully, its management is very similar to that of the Auricula. As soon as they are done blooming, the plants should be shaken out, the roots carefully examined, and all decayed parts cut away; if the root has become elongated, this should be reduced, and the cut parts dressed with powdered charcoal; the offsets should be taken off, and the root divided into as many plants as there are crowns, if such increase is required, but, if not, several crowns may be left on the same root. They should then be repotted in a compost consisting of one part of well-rotted cow-dung, peat earth, or leaf mould, and two parts of good well-rotted pasture loam, with a plentiful supply of silver sand, all being thoroughly well mixed and sweetened by exposure before being used. The pots should be well watered and kept in a northern aspect, or in a shady place in hot and sunny weather, which is apt to

destroy all plants of this sort, if not guarded against; they should be carefully covered in frosty weather, although, as a rule, damp, as in the case of the Auricula, is more injurious to them than cold. During the period of blooming, they should be kept shaded from the glaring sun; and with this care, the deep orange and rich yellow, contrasted with the black and maroon colouring in the segments, cannot fail to please the grower, expanding as they do in the early months of the year.

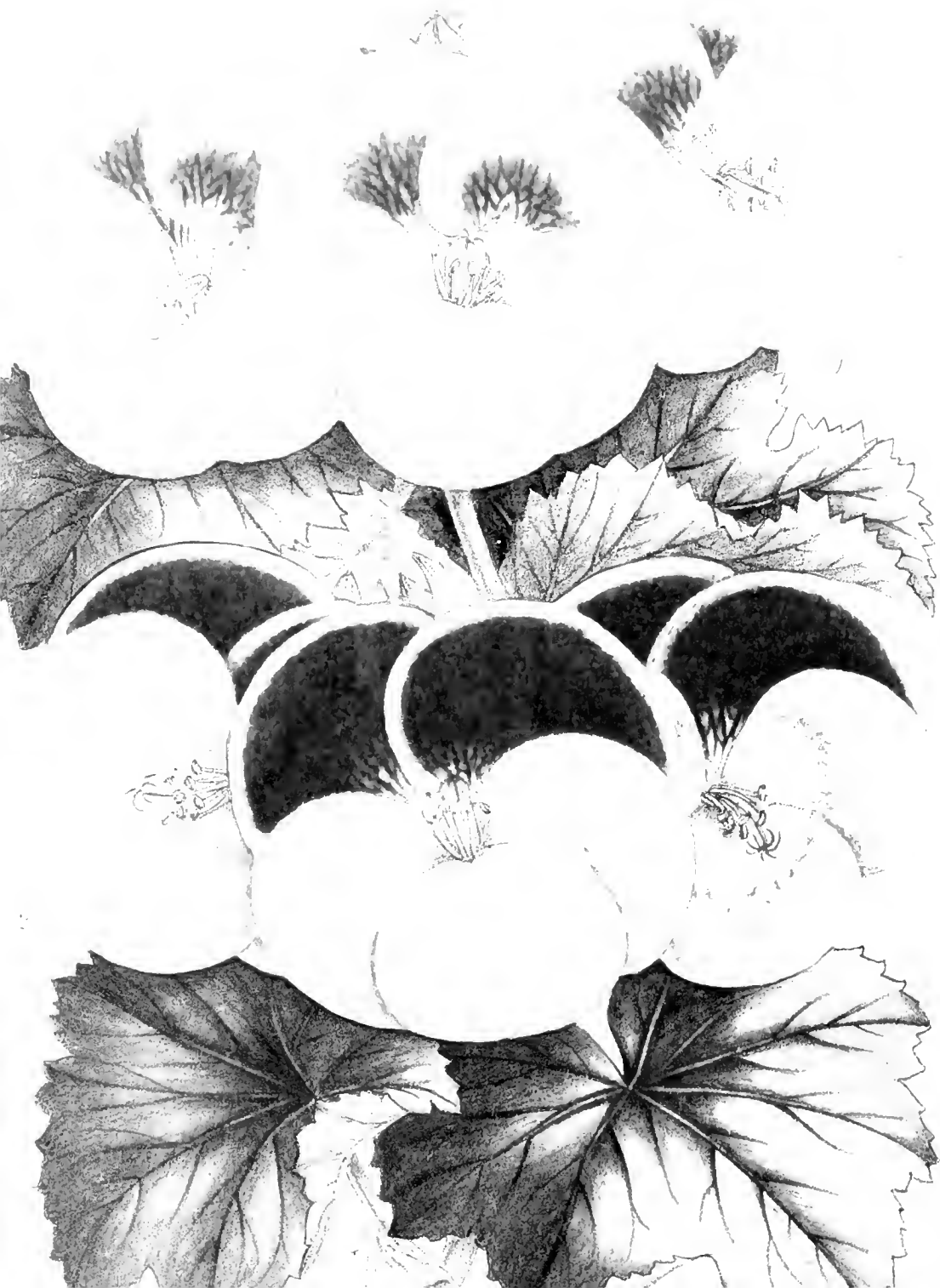


PLATE 101.

PELARGONIUMS, TROUBADOUR AND
LADY OF THE LAKE.

The present season has not been so remarkable for the production of new varieties of this favourite flower as the previous one, the task of producing flowers which shall be in advance of those previously grown being by no means easy. Still, notwithstanding, some excellent flowers have been shown, and of these we have selected two of the best for our illustration.

We have, as usual, grown all the new flowers of the past season, and from our personal observation are enabled to recommend the following as flowers of great excellence and beauty. *Emperor*, a large and finely-shaped flower, fawnish-pink, with dark spot on top petals; habit good. *Firefly*, bright orange-scarlet. *Herloom*, rich orange-rose, figured in our last volume. *Hermit*, light rose. *King of Trumps*, fine flower, in style of *Sunny Memories*. *Rob Roy*, a fine purple flower, with very dark, almost black top petals. *Saur de Charité*, lower petals rich painted orange, top petals dark maroon, a fine flower; and *Victor*, a very richly-coloured flower, tinted with orange and red, also figured in 'Floral Magazine.' Many of the other flowers sent out are nearly equal in character to these, but are not perhaps quite so good.

Troubadour (Fig. 1) is a large and richly-coloured flower, lower petals rich rosy-crimson, the upper petals deep rich crimson, with small, well-defined dark maroon spots, and the centre of the flower clear white. It obtained a first-class certificate at the Crystal Palace, where we saw it, and admired its free-flowering habit. *Lady of the Lake* is a very bright, richly-coloured flower, top petals nearly black, with a well-defined crimson margin; lower petals deep rosy-crimson, slightly

painted with deeper shade of same colour; the flower is large and very circular, and altogether of a very striking character. They are from the collection of Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough (by whose kind permission we figure them), and will be distributed with other fine varieties in the present autumn.

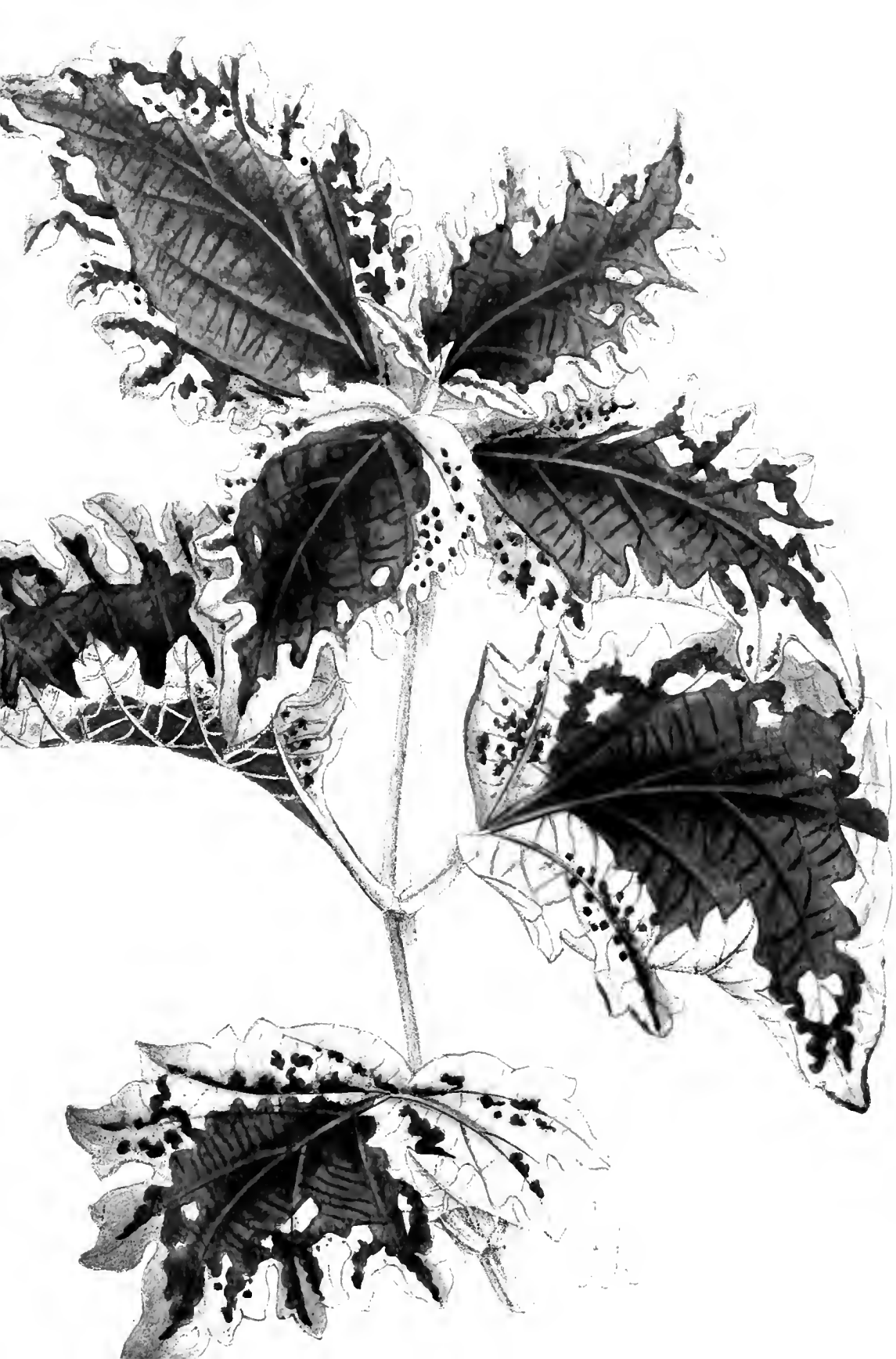


PLATE 102.

COLEUS, EMPRESS (*Bull's*).

The sensational plant, as we may justly call it, of the season has been the Coleus. The announcement that a set of twelve, raised in the Horticultural Society's Gardens, were to be offered by public auction, set the gardening world on the *qui vive*; and the high prices at which they were bought, amounting to nearly £100, showed how much had been thought of them, while at the same time other growers, notably Mr. Bull, of Chelsea, had been following the same course in hybridizing, and with equally successful results.

We however by no means agreed with all this; the prices were extravagant, and, we imagine, only remunerative to the Horticultural Society, for few, if any, of the purchasers could have done much with them; and we do not believe that after the present season they will be much thought of, while unquestionably some of those raised by other growers, such as *Telfordia aurea*, sent out by Mr. Wimsett, and several of those raised by Mr. Bull's hands are far more striking in appearance.

The introduction of *Coleus Veitchii* and *Gibsoni*, both of which have been figured in the 'Floral Magazine,' crossed with *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, still the most brilliant in colour of all, has opened the way to this fresh strain. We find the seedlings partaking of the character of both parents; nothing, for instance, can be more marked than the decided cross in the richly-coloured variety, figured in our Plate; the frilled character of the leaves at once suggests *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, while the rich crimson-brown of the centre is as evidently the crimson of the same species, toned down by the rich deep colour of *Coleus Veitchii*.

They are of the most easy culture, can be propagated as

rapidly as possible, and may be useful for out-of-door purposes; and we are quite sure that wherever any of them are so used, *Empress* will be found of more value than a great many of those so highly spoken of.



PLATE 103.

BLANDFORDIA NOBILIS.

The plant which we now figure has not the claim of novelty for its introduction to our pages, as it is one that has for many years existed in our gardens, but its effective appearance and freedom of flowering give it a claim which many of our so-called novelties do not possess, and as it ranks amongst those neglected plants which deserve a better fate than has befallen them, we introduce it for the purpose of drawing the attention to it of those who desire effective flowers for greenhouse decoration.

The Blandfordias are all natives of the Australian continent, and have many of them been introduced from thence for some years; they are very closely allied to *Heimerocallis*, and are very easily managed. The bulbs should be treated very similarly to *Ixia*, *Sparaxis*, and other allied bulbs from the Cape of Good Hope; that is, they should be grown in peat mixed with white sand, to which may be added a little loam; they ought to be potted late in the autumn and placed in a cool greenhouse, but little water being given until the bulbs begin to push, when they should be watered carefully and placed in a warmer part of the house after flowering; the pots should be placed on one side out of the way of wet until the planting-time.

Blandfordia nobilis is one of the most effective of the tribe; its flowers are produced in large clusters; they are, as will be seen, of a pendent character; the colour a bright orange, with the edges of the lobes bright yellow; the stamens are somewhat elongated, and appear beyond the opening of the flower, so that at first sight it might readily be mistaken for an orange-

coloured Pentstemon; it blooms in the month of July, and it is to the Messrs. Veitch, of King's Road, Chelsea (in whose extensive establishment many of our neglected plants find a home), that we are indebted for the opportunity of figuring it.

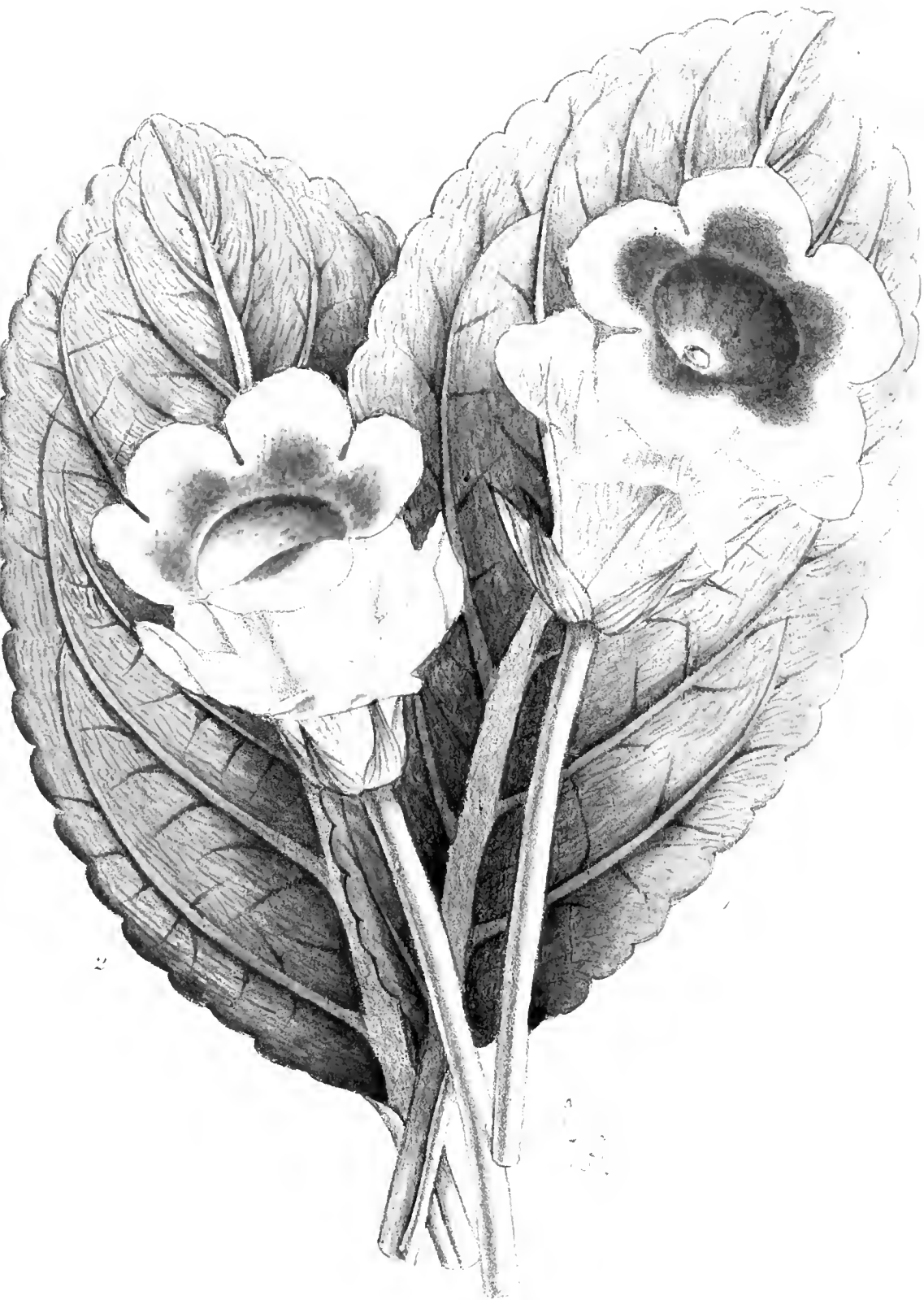


PLATE 101.

SEMI-DOUBLE GLOXINIAS, LADY CREMORNE
AND JOHN GREY.

The Gloxinia, like many other flowers, has, in the hands of the cultivator, not merely been improved in its appearance, in its size, or the variety of its colouring, but its very character has been apparently altered. We had first the drooping or normal condition of the flower, when the great beauty of the handsomest part of it was hidden, viz. the rich and deeply-coloured throat; then we had a semi-erect form, in which the character of the flower seemed to be altering; then the perfectly erect ones, in which the whole of the throat and lip were exposed to view; and now we have what may be called a double variety, similar in character to those semi-double *Mimulus* which Mr. Bull introduced a few years ago.

The flowers now figured were raised in Ireland by Mr. John Grey, gardener to Lady Cremorne (now Countess of Dartrey), from whom they have passed into the possession of Messrs. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, and have thence been named respectively *Lady Cremorne* and *John Grey*. We are informed by the Messrs. Veitch that they were first obtained four years ago, and that other varieties are in existence, and, although they may perhaps present no very great intrinsic merits, they are probably the forerunners of another race equally effective as those which have preceded them. They are of upright habit, and the calyx is so prolonged as to give the flower a semi-double appearance. *Lady Cremorne* (Fig. 1) has the throat of a deep rich blue, shading off to darker tint, while the outside of the calyx is marked with lines of a deep lavender colour. *John Grey* (Fig. 2) has a rich deep crimson with a darker shade in the centre; while the outside of the calyx is of a light

crimson, lined with the same colour at the base. By those who are fond of curious forms, both these flowers will be valued, while we look with interest to what may arise from this new start given to this old and long-established favourite.



GLADIOLUS, JULIA (KELWAY'S).

For a flower which so especially delights in moisture as the Gladiolus, the past season has necessarily been a most trying one, the complaints concerning it having been universal as well from the Continent as in England,—M. Souchet, of Fontainebleau, the first grower in France, having pronounced his bloom almost a total failure, while the paucity of blooms exhibited at the various Autumn Exhibitions showed the unfavourable nature of the season in England; the blooms exhibited by Mr. Kelway, of Langport, in Somersetshire, were however an exception, and rarely, if ever, we believe have twelve finer flowers than those exhibited by him at South Kensington been staged; amongst them was the fine flower so admirably rendered by Mr. Andrews.

We have bloomed in our own garden all the new varieties of the past season, and although a very accurate judgment cannot be formed, owing to the character of the season, yet we think the following a pretty correct one:—*Bernard de Jussieu*, a new colour, somewhat more intense than *Stephenson*, a kind of violet-purple, certainly novel, but the spike is somewhat irregular and the blooms far apart; *Étendard*, a very fine spike and an excellent flower for exhibition; *Eugène Scribe*, a pretty, well-formed flower, delicate rose, flamed with carmine-red; *La Fiancée*, a very beautiful white flower, with light bluish feathers; *Mozart*, a beautiful flower, large spike, lively rose, largely striped with dark crimson; *Norma*, a beautiful white flower, sometimes flamed with lilac; *Princess Alice*, a very beautiful light lilac flower, quite novel; *Rossini*, a shaded amaranth; *Semiramis* (we have been disappointed in this flower as yet; the colour is very beautiful and the spike long, but the lower petals are too

narrow); *Ulysse*, a fine, large, and well-formed flower, tender glossy rose; *Uranie*, pure white, lightly flamed with carmine-rose; *Molière*, cerise-crimson, with white spots; *Stella*, white, lightly tinted with carmine-red; *Thunberg*, a fine flower, very bright orange-crimson, with white spots.

Julia, the flower figured in our Plate, is a large, well-shaped flower, very much in the style of that fine flower of M. Souchet, *Madame Fortado*, and shows that Mr. Kelway is not only a successful grower, but that he has obtained a good strain of seedlings, taking perhaps the place once occupied by Mr. Standish, of Bagshot.



ODONTOGLOSSUM KREMERI.

The cultivation of Orchids has so much increased of late years, and the introduction of new species and varieties excite so much interest, that we feel sure that many will be glad to see the figure of the very pretty *Odontoglossum Kremeri*, for which we are indebted to Messrs. Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, who have introduced so many of our finest Orchids, and who have also increased the number of cultivated kinds by so many really valuable hybrids originated in their establishment. Thus it was only the other day, in going through their orchid-houses, that we noticed a very beautiful *Lalia*, a seedling which had only just flowered, and which bids fair, from the delicacy of its colouring, to rival some of those very beautiful varieties already raised through the skill and perseverance of Mr. Dominy.

Odontoglossum Kremeri, we are informed, is a native of Costa Rica, from whence it was sent to the establishment of Mr. Veitch, by their collector, Mr. Kremer. It is a cool-house Orchid, and consequently its culture is by no means difficult; it is grown as most of the *Odontoglossums* succeed best, in pots, and in fact its cultivation differs nothing from that of many which have been already figured in the 'Floral Magazine.' Its colour is bright violet, the crests of the lip being of a deep yellow, with purplish spots; the pseudobulbs are round, and the leaves large.

We cannot do better than add the words of Professor Reichenbach, *fil.*, the first of living orchidologists:—'This is one of the discoveries of Mr. Kremer, jun., the second son of the famous gardener of Frau Senatorin Jenisch at Flottbeck, near Hamburg. He was sent to Costa Rica by Messrs. Veitch, and would appear to have fully accomplished his mission, since

those gentlemen wished the species to be named after him, provided it was new, as they themselves most correctly supposed. We would direct the attention of amateurs to this gorgeous plant, perhaps one of the freest flowering of the genus, if our specimen is normal. Only think! one bulb has one developed flower-scape, and the remains of two others!"

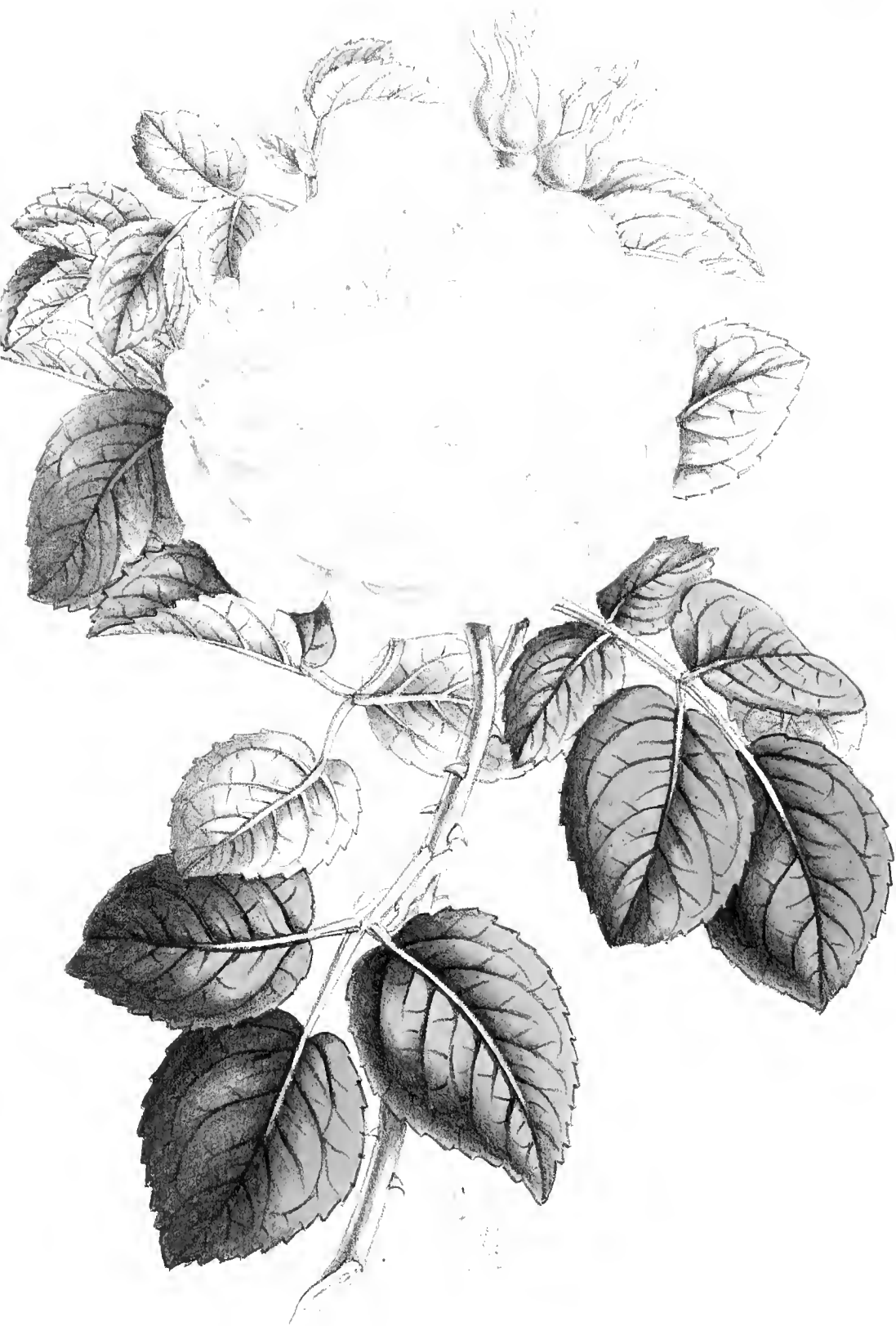


PLATE 107.

BOURBON ROSE, MADEMOISELLE MARIE
LARPIN.

We have already figured one of the new Roses, *La France*, raised and sent out last autumn by M. Guillot, *fils*, of Lyons, and we now figure a very beautiful Bourbon Rose of the same successful raiser, which for symmetry of form cannot be surpassed; and although from their being scentless the Bourbons are not generally favourites, yet their free-blooming qualities ought to make them so.

The dryness of the past season has been very unfavourable to the Rose, and the quality of the flowers has suffered very much in consequence, while it has been very difficult to form a correct estimate of the new varieties; we venture, however, to express our belief that the following will be found to be among the best:—*Baronne Adolphe de Rothschild*, a light delicate rose-colour, a very fine flower, if it come full enough; *Lisette de Béranger*, a pretty flower, of the *Aimée Fibert* character, very light blush, sometimes bordered with deep rose; *Madame Marie Cirolde*, bright fresh rose-colour; *Merceille d'Anjou*, a deep purplish-red rose, much of the colour of *Pierre Notting*; *La France*, already figured and described in the 'Floral Magazine.' Besides these, there have been shown *Reine de Portugal* (Tea), a very beautiful colour, somewhat in the style of the old Rose *Ophirie*, but we rather fear that it will not open well out-of-doors; nor must we omit *Miss Ingram*, which has been distributed by Mr. Turner, and promises to keep up the character of English-raised Roses.

Mademoiselle Marie Larpin is evidently of the race of *Louise Odier*, partaking of the exquisite shape of that well-known

flower; the colour is very delicate, a beautiful tender rosy-pink, the reverse of the petals flesh-white; the flowers are very freely produced, as in the case of Bourbons generally; and although the flower is medium-sized, yet its good qualities will, we think, make it a favourite when better known.

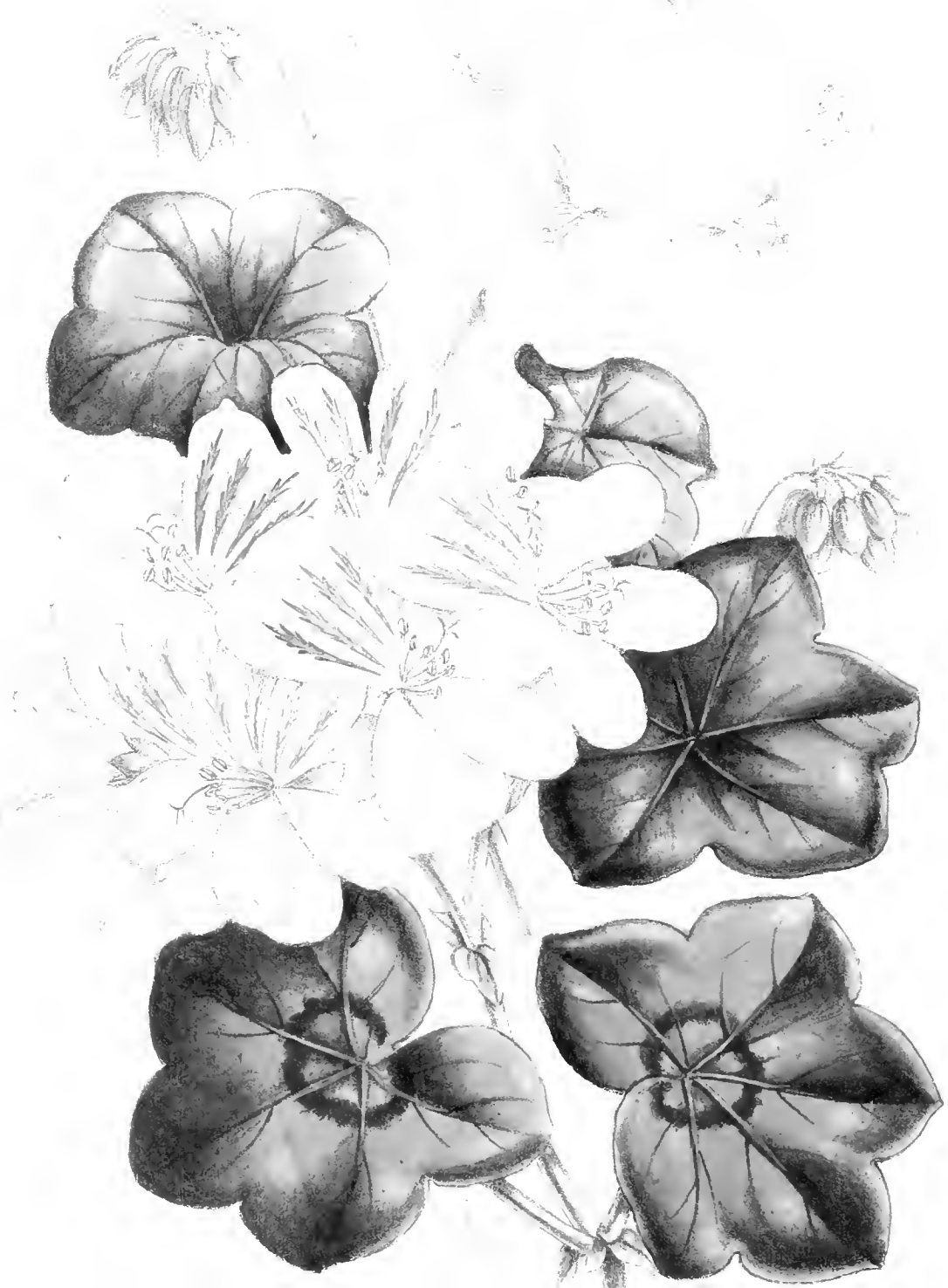


PLATE 108.

IVY-LEAVED PELARGONIUMS. PRINCESS
THYRA AND GRAND DUCHESS MARIA.

Every section of this family has received the careful attention of the hybridizer, and the wonderful transformations effected have surpassed the expectations even of those who were most enthusiastic in the matter; what further changes may be made we cannot say, but it is evident that this flower must more than ever be a favourite for out-of-doors work, as it has stood the intense drought and heat of the past summer so much better than most of our bedding-plants.

The old Ivy-leaved Pelargonium, with its thick, leathery leaves and its small and insignificant flowers, is well known. In how many a cottage window have we seen it on the quaint little trellises on which it was trained, bidding defiance to dust and heat and thriving vigorously! it has also been much used for basket and trailing work generally, but the successful efforts of Mr. Bull and others are evidently tending to making it valuable as a pot plant, and bringing its flowers up to the size of some of the larger-flowered sections; and as it is very useful for brackets, for trailing over the sides of large vases, or for edging of large beds, any improvement will be hailed with satisfaction.

The two varieties figured in our Plate were raised by Mr. W. Bull, of the King's Road, Chelsea, from whose establishment have issued so many of our finest Pelargoniums, and were selected by him from hundreds of seedlings. *Princess Thyra* (Fig. 1) is a deep flesh-colour, the upper petals somewhat darker than the lower one, and marked with four deep pink serrated bars. *Grand Duchess Maria* (Fig. 2) has the flowers of

a deep violet-pink, with four bars in the upper petals, of the same character as those in the preceding flower, but a deep violet shade. It will be seen that the foliage retains all the peculiarities of the old Ivy-leaved Pelargonium, the alteration by hybridization having simply affected the style and character of the flowers.

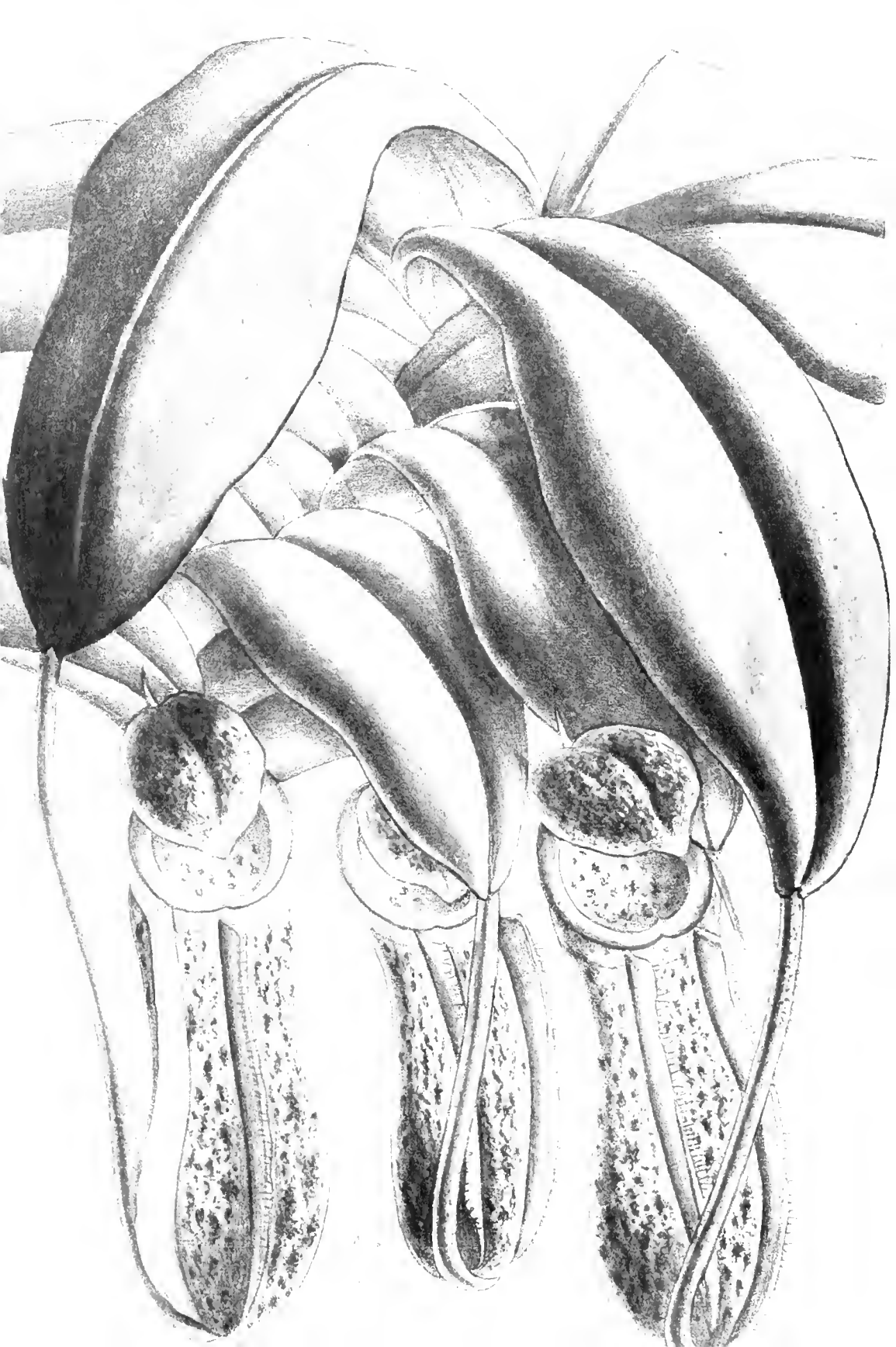


PLATE 109.

NEPENTHES HYBRIDA MACULATA.

Among the many remarkable genera of plants which attract the observer of nature, there is not one which perhaps so universally does so as the family of Pitcher-plants, as they are called; from the lovely *Cephalotus*, the odd-looking *Darlingtonia*, through the *Sarracenias*, and up to the magnificent species of *Nepenthes*, some of whose pitchers will contain three pints of water; all are alike interesting and all are well worthy of notice. We have already figured in our Magazine, *Cephalotus follicularis*, the curious little Australian Pitcher-plant, and *Sarracenia Drummondii*, one of the North American species, and we now figure one of those more immediately connected with the tropical species,—for it is not a species but a garden hybrid.

No establishment in the kingdom is so rich in *Nepenthes* as that of the Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, where they are to be seen both as magnificent plants of large size and as the tiniest little things in the seedling-pan, for the genus has been one of those which the indefatigable skill and perseverance of Mr. Dominy, their intelligent foreman, has brought under his treatment. That which we now figure is a seedling raised by him from *N. distillatoria* and an unnamed Bornean species. The habit partakes of the free growth of *Nepenthes distillatoria*; the pitchers, which are thickly spotted with reddish-brown, quite equal in size those of that species, and they are very freely produced.

Unlike those which we have formerly figured, this variety requires a stove, and, as might be supposed from the habitat of this plant, one where considerable moisture can be given as well as heat. When such can be obtained, there is certainly

no plant more worthy of a place in it, or one more likely to be attractive than it or some of its immediate congeners; but, at the same time, there is nothing so difficult in their culture as to deter the amateur from enriching his collection with their curious and wonderful forms.

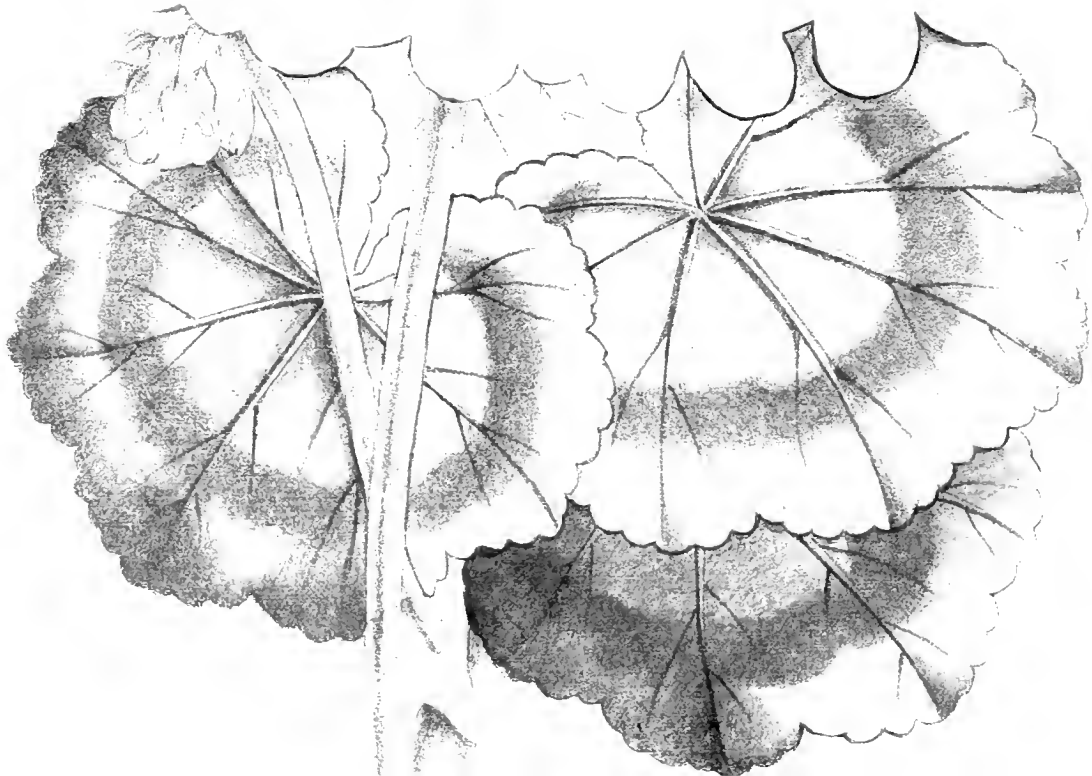


PLATE 110.

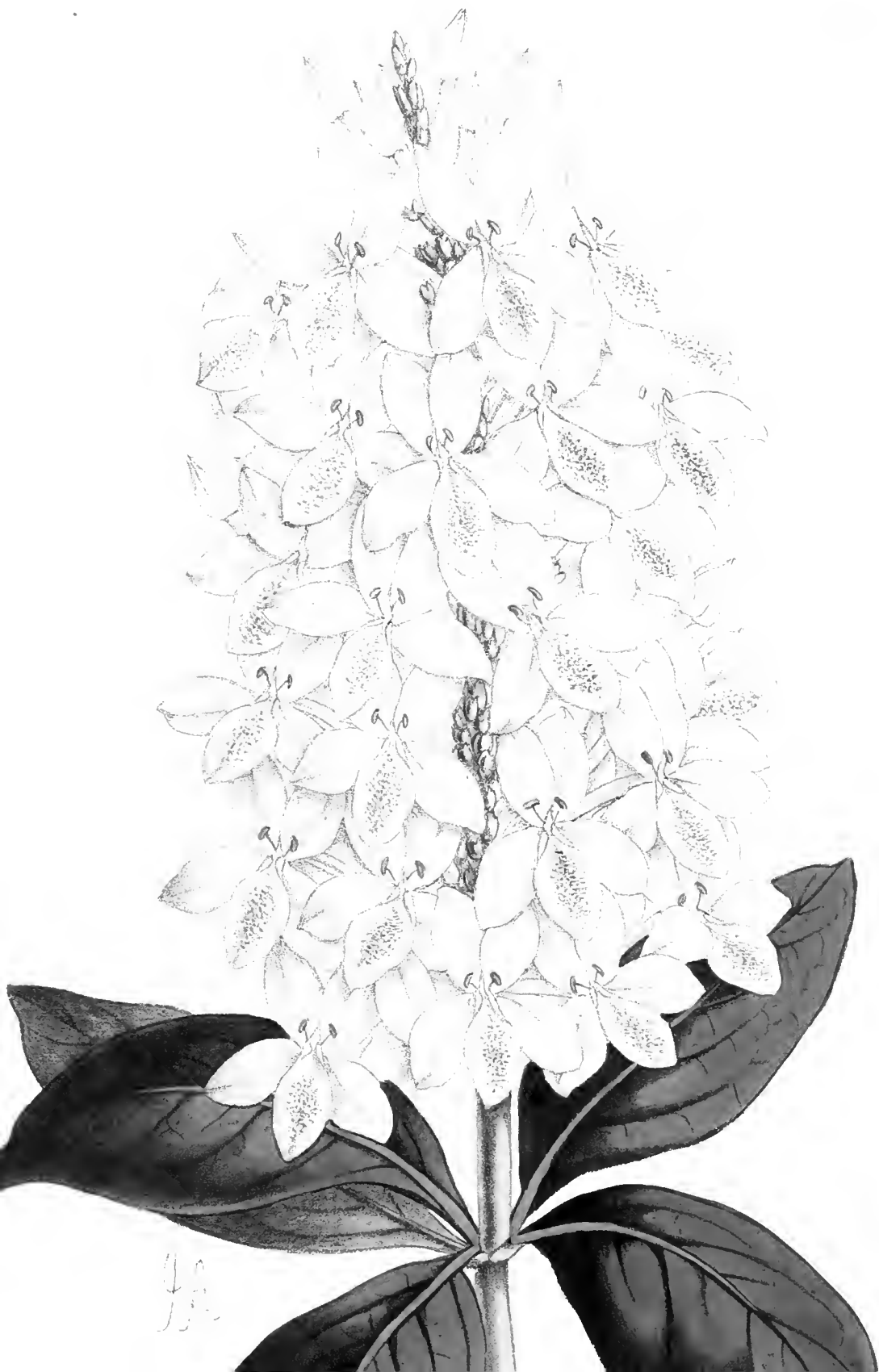
NOSEGAY PELARGONIUM, ROBERT BOWLEY.

There is much division of opinion as to the merits of the Nosegay section of Zonal Geraniums, but we believe that the vast improvement which has taken place in them of late years will tend to make those who, like ourselves, disliked their ragged appearance, look on them with a more favouring eye. The objections that were made to them, that the trusses were loose, and that the centre usually got black and disagreeable-looking, are being obviated by the skill of the hybridizer; and the brilliancy of colour is certainly not equalled in its way in any section of this numerous and remarkable family, while during the present trying season they have shown themselves capable of bearing as well, if not better, even than the Zonals, the long and trying drought to which they have been exposed.

No firm—with the exception, perhaps, of Mr. George Smith, of Tollington Road Nursery—has been more successful in sending forth really good and striking varieties of the Nosegay section than Messrs. Downie, Laird, and Laing, of Stanstead Park, Forest Hill; and amongst those which they have produced, we may safely say that the present one—named after the able and zealous manager of the Crystal Palace Company—surpasses, in the size of its truss, and the deep and rich colour of its flowers, any that they have previously raised. It has received a first-class certificate of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society, and will form, when let out in the spring, a fitting accompaniment to *Masterpiece*, raised by Mr. George Smith.

We had an opportunity of seeing, the other day, the fine stock of Pelargoniums grown by this firm, and we believe that, in the gold and bronze section especially, they have a strain unsurpassed, in purity and marking, by any other firm. The

present season has been most productive in seed, and we doubt not that next year there will be such an *embarras des richesses* as will make the task of selection more difficult than ever; but we are inclined to think *Robert Bowley* will even then hold a foremost place.



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PLATE III.

ERANTHEMUM ELEGANS.

“Among the new exotics exhibited in the class set apart for them at the recent show of the Royal Horticultural Society at Kingstown, there was one with the novelty and beauty of which we, as doubtless many others, were greatly struck at the time, as well as favourably impressed with its value in the hands of the cultivator, when grown and fully developed, as a specimen for the home or exhibition stage,—we allude to the charming Acanthade exhibited on the occasion by the Right Hon. Maziere Brady, and labelled *Eranthemum sp.*”

“The Hazelbrook plant differs from Dr. Hooker’s figure and description of *E. aspersum* in the size and form of the leaves. Instead of being only two or three inches, they are nearer to eight inches in length, entire at the margins, and remarkably attenuated at the point. In the colour of the flowers it is very distinct from the plant figured, the two upper and lateral petals being pure white, without a trace of the sprinkling of purple dots to which *E. aspersum* owes its specific name, while the orchid-like lip or lower petal, instead of being ‘very deep blood-purple at the base and over the disk, and the broad white margin spotted with purple,’ is merely minutely but thickly dotted with crimson-lake, the broad margin being perfectly white; the anthers, too, instead of being included, are distinctly exerted.”

The above, extracted from the ‘Irish Farmers’ Gazette,’ gives an interesting account of the very beautiful plant we now figure, and which is, as will be seen, a different species from that figured in the ‘Botanical Magazine.’ We should add that it was received by the Ex-Chancellor of Ireland from Judge

Fitzgerald, and that it has passed into the hands of Mr. William Bull, of King's Road, Chelsea, from whose establishment it will be distributed amongst other novelties in the ensuing spring.

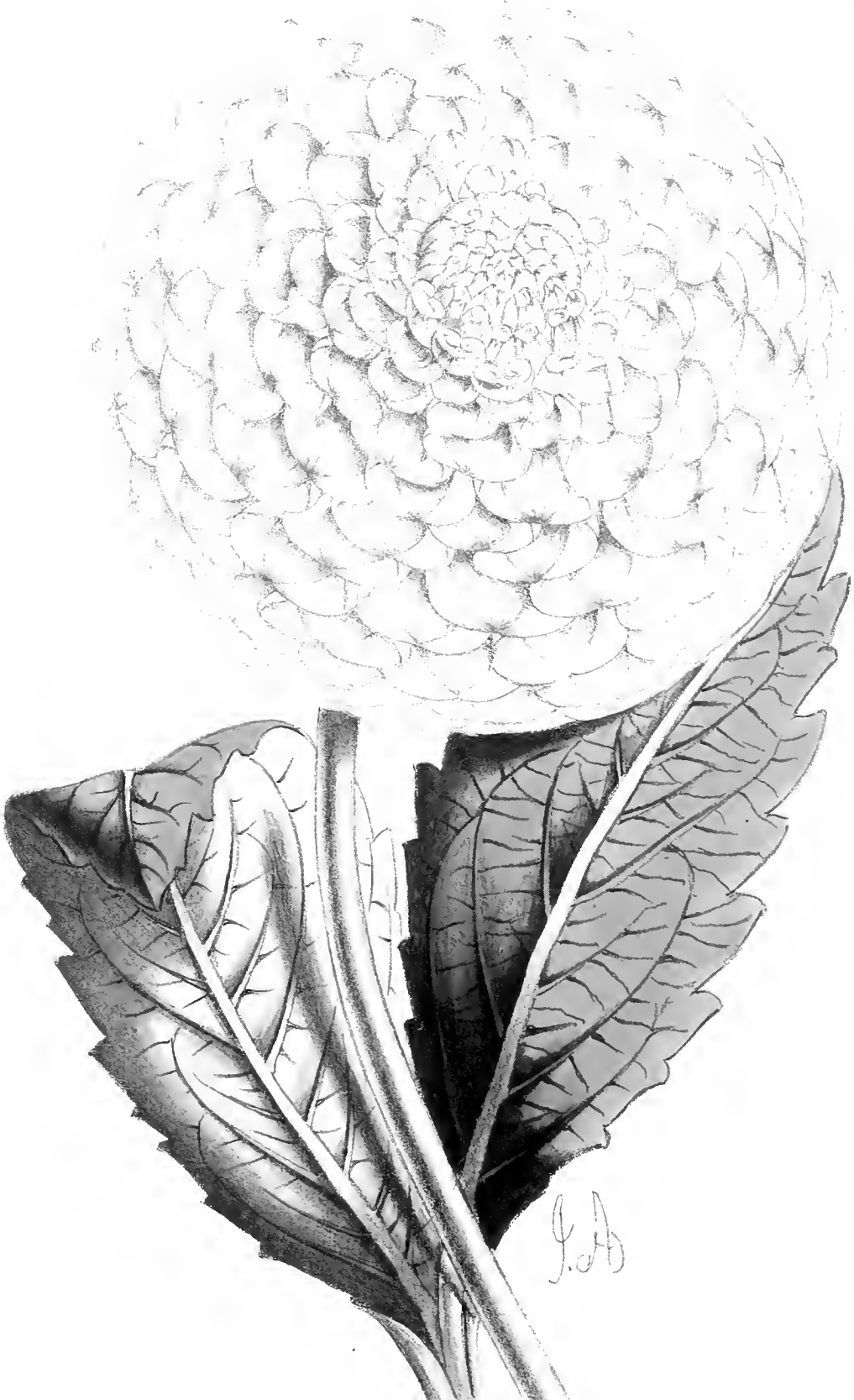


PLATE 42.

DAHLIA, QUEEN OF BEAUTIES.

This grand autumnal flower, however much it may be neglected in comparison with former times, when it formed the subject of continued interest amongst a large class of florists, has yet some constant and devoted admirers. It makes still a grand feature at most of our autumnal exhibitions, and is still to be seen ornamenting, with its varied colours and exquisite shape, many a garden where bedding-out has not absorbed all the energies of the gardener, or claimed all the space in the garden.

Amongst the most constant of its admirers is the raiser of the flower now figured, viz. the Rev. Charles Fellowes, of Shotisham, Norfolk. We remember, many years ago, visiting his rectory-garden, and being very much astonished at the comparatively small number of seedlings that he grew, as compared with the valuable varieties he had raised and sent out. This is an evidence of wisdom, and, to a certain extent, of skill; we have known thousands of seedlings raised, and hardly a good flower obtained, while here, with a few hundreds, first-rate sorts were constantly being added.

To such perfection has the hybridization of the Dahlia been brought, that it seems almost impossible to improve upon it; the shape is as near perfection as possible, and it is only when some new shade or tint of colour is obtained that we can claim that improvement; such was the case with *Flambeau*, figured in our last volume (p. 326), and so we may say with *Queen of Beauties*, the delicate colour of the ground, and the distinctness of the marking, making it a most desirable acquisition both for the Dahlia fancier and for the garden. It was, as we have said,

raised by Mr. Fellowes, and will be sent out in the spring by Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, who has already sent forth so many valuable varieties of this splendid autumn flower.





LASIANDRA MACRANTHA.

There is not any plant which, during the present season, has commanded so much attention as the magnificent Melastomad which, owing to the courtesy of Mr. W. Bull, of the King's Road, Chelsea, we are enabled to figure, and to which Mr. Andrews has only done simple justice.

Although the family to which it belongs already contains many fine showy and useful plants, there can be no question that for size and vividness of colour, the present species eclipses all its congeners; while to the horticulturist it offers the advantage of being almost perpetual flowering, and of commencing to flower at a very early state, for we have seen young plants at Mr. Bull's, only five and six inches in height, flowering abundantly.

Lasiandra macrantha, or as it is called by some *Pleroma macranthum*, is a native of the province of St. Catherine, Brazil, from whence it was introduced some years ago by M. Libon, the zealous collector of M. Linden, of Brussels. We learn that it flowered with him four years ago, and that through Mr. Bull it will be distributed in this country in the course of the present year. The largest plants yet shown have been about four feet high, although doubtless under cultivation it will attain a larger size. The flowers are from five to six inches in diameter, although possibly these may also come larger with increased vigour in the plant; the leaves are also very ornamental, being of a bright green, and the plant is moreover of easy cultivation, requiring but the ordinary treatment of a greenhouse, and thriving well in loam and peat, and one can conceive no finer object in a conservatory than a well-grown plant in full bloom.

We have just had the opportunity of paying a visit to the establishment of M. Linden at Brussels, and we learn from him that this beautiful plant requires only a cool greenhouse, and that in summer it will do well in the open air. M. Linden has also received the seeds of some very fine *Melastomads*, of which we shall hear by-and-by.



PLATE 115.

SPIRÆA PALMATA.

Many of the Spiræas are already known as interesting and showy shrubs,—much more used, indeed, on the Continent than they are here, for we saw large numbers of them during the present year in the various gardens around Paris, and lighting up with their brilliant flowers many of the little *parterres* surrounding the railway-stations; but amongst them all we question if there is one which can vie in beauty with the plant now figured, which has been lately exhibited by Mr. Noble, of Bagshot, and of which Dr. Hooker, writing in the 'Botanical Magazine,' thus says:—"By far the handsomest species of the genus hitherto imported, and certainly one of the most beautiful hardy plants in cultivation; the deep purple-red of the stem and branches, passing into the crimson-purple of the glorious broad corymbs of flowers, contrasts most exquisitely with the foliage, which in autumn assumes beautiful tints of brown and golden-yellow. *Spiræa palmata* is a native of Japan, and was introduced by Messrs. Noble, of Bagshot, through Mr. Fortune, from whom dried specimens are in the Hookerian Herbarium at Kew. Thunberg describes it as sometimes having white flowers, and Professor Asa Gray has referred a white-flowered Japanese plant to this, which, however, is identical with a glabrate form of *Spiræa digitata* (var. *glabra*, Ledebour), and differs in the much broader stipules with cordate bases."

With so many beautiful flowering shrubs as we possess, it is strange that we do not see them more extensively cultivated; it may be that, flowering in the summer as they do, when we have other flowers in abundance, they are not so much appreciated as they might otherwise be; but now, when horticulture is making such rapid progress, we do look to see, especially in our

public gardens, more attention paid to these deeply interesting and beautiful plants.

Spiraea palmata has obtained a first-class certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society, and will be sent out by Messrs. Noble in the spring.



PLATE 416.

VERBENAS; SPOT, MRS. REYNOLDS HOLE, AND
MRS. PERRY.

A season without a parallel of late years has sorely tried the capabilities of many plants, and shown the importance of various kinds of cultivation. In no class has this, perhaps, been more strikingly seen than in the Verbena. Nothing could possibly afford a greater contrast than those exhibited by Mr. Perry, of The Cedars, Castle Bromwich, and the flowers of other exhibitors at the Crystal Palace autumn show; while his were as fine, if not finer, than we have ever seen them, the others were so poor as not even to be placed for a prize. The difference arose from the fact that Mr. Perry, according to his usual method, grew his in pots, and the others were from the open air. As a rule, his seedlings are more adapted for this style of culture, although some of his varieties are also excellent for bedding purposes, and we may safely say that never has he had a finer lot than those of this season. From among them we have selected three for our Plate. *Spot* (Fig. 1) is a flower of great purity of colour, and with a large full truss. In the centre of each pip there is a large star-like spot of very deep crimson. It bears some analogy to *Fairest of the Fair* and others, but we think is the finest flower of its class that has yet been raised. *Mrs. Reynolds Hole* (Fig. 2) is a flower of great depth of colour, being of a very bright rosy-pink, dark at the edge of the petals, and with a deeper spot in the centre; the individual pips are very large, and the flower of good substance. *Mrs. Perry* (Fig. 3) is of a deep crimson-purple colour, with a large round lemon-coloured eye, almost like some of the alpine Auriculas. It will doubtless, like many of those which have preceded it, be a great favourite with exhibitors for the con-

trast of colour which it shows. These, with other varieties raised by Mr. Perry, will be let out by Mr. Turner, of Slough, in the spring.



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