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Society of American Florists.

PROCEEDINGS OF

Annual Meeting,

HELD AT  
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Cincinnati, August 12, 13, and 14, 1885.



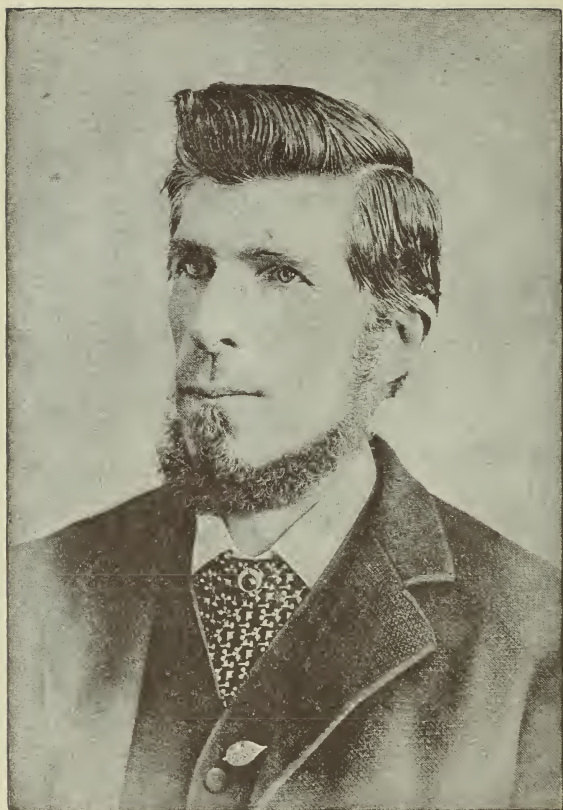
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PRESIDENT JOHN THORPE.

# PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

FIRST CONVENTION

—OF THE—

# Society of American Florists

—HELD AT—

CINCINNATI, OHIO,

August 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1885.

—————  
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.  
—————

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# OFFICERS

OF THE

## Society of American Florists,

For 1885-6,

Elected at Cincinnati Meeting, August 14, 1885.

PRESIDENT,

JOHN THORPE, QUEENS, N. Y.

VICE PRESIDENT,

ROBERT CRAIG, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TREASURER,

MYRON A. HUNT, CHICAGO, ILL.

SECRETARY,

E. G. HILL, RICHMOND, IND.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

ROBERT S. BROWN, Kansas City, Mo.

JAMES T. MURKLAND, New York City.

J. C. VAUGHAN, Chicago.

GEORGE FIELD, Washington, D. C.

ROBERT J. HALLIDAY, Baltimore.


B. P. CRITCHELL, Cincinnati.

HARRY SUNDERBRUCH, Cincinnati.

J. M. JORDAN, St. Louis.

JOHN MAY, Summit, N. J.

Horticulture 28 July 1887  
Boston v. 1  
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# PROCEEDINGS.

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MUSIC HALL,  
CINCINNATI, O., AUGUST 12, 1885.

The Convention was called to order by President THORPE, at 10:30 A.M.

Mr. B. P. CRITCHELL, of Cincinnati:

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

On behalf of the Local Committee, I have the pleasure of introducing Mayor SMITH, who will address you in a few words of welcome.

ADDRESS OF MAYOR SMITH.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Society of American Florists:*

The people of Cincinnati are gratified at Cincinnati's being the recipient of your first attentions. It is with a sense of pride, inherent to the breasts of all patriotic citizens, whose sense of duty leads them to praise, and give their first allegiance to the city of their birth or adoption, that in greeting you they welcome those who have seen fit to come to us. If not fully convinced that Cincinnati is most eminently the proper place in which to lay the foundation of any enterprise, you are at least willing to accept the fact that Cincinnati, where expositions are founded, and whose May Festivals have brought the finest soloists of the world to assist in the success of the grandest chorus singing in the new world; whose Opera Festivals have not been surpassed on any continent; whose College of Music challenges the admiration of the several critics; whose Art Museum bids fair to become world-renowned: that this city, whose people are so tempered as to seek, and succeed beyond question in securing the best of all the good things of earth, is the proper place to lay the groundwork of your Conservatory—where in planting seeds of wisdom, time will mature to you flowers of such worth and fragrance, that their perfume, grafted with the bright thoughts of the florist, will go into the world and become a joy forever. Your field of action is not local in its nature. The roll-call

of your membership finds representatives from all parts of our nation. The subject of your calling is encompassed only by the limits of the globe. Time does not record its birth, nor futurity give rise to fears of its everlastingness. With such a subject you come to us; some to voice the accumulated knowledge of years; others to receive and acquire wisdom, that Floriculture may grow and come down from generation to generation.

May your deliberations meet with the greatest success; may your daily sessions be associated with pleasant remembrances; and may your personal experience be of such a nature that hours of labor may alternate with hours of pleasure, and that you may enjoy your visit while with us. May you feel that the object of your visit has been attained, that your duties have been pleasant ones and happily performed. Gentlemen of the Society of American Florists, in the name of Cincinnati and in behalf of the Cincinnati people, I bid you welcome, heartily welcome to Cincinnati.

Mr. HENDRICKS, of Albany, N. Y. :

On behalf of the American Florists, I desire to offer you their acknowledgment of your kind offer of hospitality and welcome. You seem to me to be especially desirous that the foundations of this Society should be laid sound in Cincinnati, judging from the hospitality extended to our Society.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

*Gentlemen of the Convention :*

We are here for the purpose of discussing what are the best methods to make the Society of American Florists and their business a success; we can insure this in no better way than by gathering together as we have done to-day, and as often as possible. The fact of so much interest being displayed is most satisfactory; it is full of encouragement for us to go on with the good work we have begun; to accomplish as much as possible must be our aim. We must be persevering, communicative, vigilant, and industrious for the Society's benefit; this means for our own good and the people's good. The position we now occupy should be a heavy-weight in the government of our business. Let us see what we represent and how we materialize.

There are not less than eight thousand florists engaged in the business, either growing plants or raising cut-flowers for sale. Allowing four hundred feet of glass-covered surface to each florist, gives us a total of three million two hundred thousand square feet; in other words, six hundred and thirty

acres. Calculating that half of the glass structures are used for growing plants, and that one-third of the space is actually covered with them, and averaging the size of pots used at three inches diameter, and allowing two crops each year, the number of plants would be about forty millions.

The remaining half of the glass structures are used for the purpose of growing cut-flowers; the actual number produced is almost incredible. I can state, however, that during the past season—beginning with November and ending with April—nine large growers of roses sent into the New York market close upon four millions of flowers, and when I state that this was not fifty per cent. of the roses sent to New York alone, the magnitude of rose-growing will be imagined. The roses grown around Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Washington, and all other places, could not be less than twice as many as were produced for the New York market. This would bring up the number of cut-roses produced during the past season to twenty-four millions. It would be very safe to multiply the number of carnation flowers produced in the same time from all sources by at least five. This would give one hundred and twenty-five millions. Fabulous as this may seem, I feel that my calculations are rather under than over the actual number placed in the market. It would, moreover, be very safe to state that at least one-fourth as many roses and carnations are annually raised by gentlemen for their own enjoyment, which represents as much value as if thrown on the market and sold over the counter. Of various other flowers, though not in the same proportion, there are produced many millions.

The bulb trade, the bulk of which is represented by importation, has grown to be a source of great value to the business, and as there is a duty of 20 per cent. on all bulbs imported, it is a source of revenue to the country also; and, while I have no actual data to make a close estimate of the value imported last season, it is safe to say that not less than two hundred thousand dollars' worth were actually imported the last twelve months. The bulk of these being hyacinths and tulips, more than one-half being used to force for cut-flowers, this does not include more than five millions of lilies-of-the-valley which are not dutiable. Thus far I have not said anything about a very important branch of the business or those engaged in it. I refer to that branch known as the florist's supplies and requisites, which has grown to be a most important factor in the trade. The number engaged is estimated at 700. The most important articles are shapes for floral designs, such as ornamental baskets, vases in glass and porcelain, and other wares; wire-work, holders for bouquets, tinfoil, wire for stemming, different papers for packing and wrapping flowers, and other articles used in the business. The actual amount of capital invested in

this branch of our business is in the aggregate many hundreds of thousands of dollars, employing more labor in proportion than does the florist proper, paying in many cases enormous rents for their accommodation. Most of those engaged in this branch have other business relations, either as seedsmen, or dealers in bulbs or cut-flowers. Then we have the army of cut-flower men, those who are not producers but make a business entirely of selling flowers, either made into shapes or loosely. This is a growing branch, and to-day there are not less than 2,000 employed in it.

The land occupied with flowering plants and bulbs of all kinds scattered over the country must aggregate at least twelve thousand acres, in addition to several thousand acres used for growing flower seeds. This is accounting only for land so occupied in America. It would not be too much to say that fully half as much land in Europe is also used in the same manner for the American trade. In addition to this there is nearly as much area of land, and as much glass, and more than half as much labor devoted to the cultivation of flowers by gentlemen who can make a pleasure of so doing; yet, with all this, the florists and gentlemen growers of America have been unrepresented by any organization until the Society of American Florists was established. Just think of an industry of such magnitude without a voice or a word in its own interest! We are not only entitled to consideration as a national union, but as educators of the people. Matters of national importance have been submitted to the Government through our slightly older brethren, the American Nurserymen's Association and the American Seedsmen's Association. The time may not be far distant when *we* may have to submit to the powers that be questions of vital importance which may affect us as florists. With our Society we can demand and will be entitled to consideration. Besides, the Society of American Florists will be the channel through which the Government will be pleased to give and receive information in all matters immediately relating to it. I really wonder how we have sat still so long without taking any action, represented as we are by capital, numbers, and influence. Let us be up and doing, I say.

The practical part of the business must always be well considered and well represented at every movement of the Society of American Florists. The time has gone by when half-measures and improper cultivation can be successful. The diffusion of knowledge in a florist's business is of as much importance as in any other pursuit. This we can obtain by personal contact, by interchange of ideas, by comparing notes, and by close observation. It is our duty, pure and simple, as an association, to aid each other in all that we can. Let us give to others, when in our power, such information as may be of service, and in return we can ask information from

them. It has been my experience whenever I have paid a visit to a brother florist, however limited his establishment may have been, never to have left without gaining something of importance. The same is true of men. The man pretending the least often imparts most valuable information. I feel certain every member here present has come with the intention of doing all the good in his power, and when he goes home he will feel he has accomplished far more than he expected. A successful florist needs be a man of intelligence, perseverance, and fidelity. The business requires brains as well as capital; he must be on the alert to turn to account all improvements; he must be comprehensive and quick to take advantage of favorable opportunities. It is necessary for him to be of a mechanical turn of mind; he must be well read on all subjects relating to the business; he must be alive to the requirements of his patrons and try to lead rather than to wait to be led by them. I am induced to remark that only a few years since our brethren in small towns would remark that they only wanted two or three kinds of geraniums, half a dozen sorts of roses, and two or three kinds of fuchsias. It is now very different; they want to get all the new and good things, because they say their patrons demand it. That is just as it should be—let us have the best of everything as far as we possibly can. Let us see how the business has grown in ten years.

In numbers we have grown four-fold; in volume of business six-fold, and in value just as much. At the sales of plants at auction, held in eastern cities, extending over ten weeks, the past spring, there were not less than 1,000,000 disposed of; ten years since there were not 10,000. At that time there were scarcely twenty catalogues published in a year, now there are one hundred; and as to illustrated catalogues, they were not known. The florist's catalogues of to-day are not merely lists of plants, but they are works of art; and let me stop to say that we are indebted to those gentlemen who have made the illustrations of catalogues a business. While on the subject of catalogues, I would remark that some of our members are inclined to think the catalogue trade militates against those not publishing one. I most emphatically say it is a mistake; for, depend upon it, the more catalogues there are distributed the better it is for the local florists. Catalogues stir up an interest in flowers greater than the local florist dreams of. They educate the people to love flowers more and more; they incite a desire for something new, and in nine cases out of ten the local florist is applied to for information, which brings him in personal contact with those desiring such information, and personal contact is the best of all mediums for business. The business has become a necessity in every town of only six

or seven hundred inhabitants. Flowers and plants are used now at all social and public meetings, even in the smallest villages.

In passing through the country, remote from centers of population, the florist's hand is seen everywhere. Beds of annuals, beds of coleus, clusters of roses and borders of other flowers are around and near every door-yard. The most encouraging signs are abroad in the land. Let us take advantage and do all we can to make homes cheerful and our business a success. Where a few years since the only flower seeds sown were those saved from year to year, or those only bought for a few cents at the groceries, there are now tons of seeds sold, such as mignonette, sweet-peas, asters, phloxes, and pansies. The spring flowering bulbs were rarely ever seen, excepting, perhaps, a very few crocuses, tulips, and snowdrops, which struggled along from year to year unobserved. How is it now? Beds of spring flowering bulbs are as plenty as geraniums were ten years ago. I can remember ten years ago in Cleveland seeing a bed of tulips on Pearl street—only one. The next year on Franklin street there was one. The next year there were a dozen, and a year or two after nearly every garden had one. Our friend of Pearl street—I say friend because he was a friend to us all, moreover, he was a dear lover of all flowers—set the fashion of having beds of tulips in Cleveland; he advertised bulbs for us all. It would pay us to give away 500 bulbs to every village in the country.

There is a great deal of untrodden ground for us to go over yet, and where we can do much good, especially among gentlemen's gardeners and amateurs. There are nearly 2,000 gardeners in the employ of gentlemen who are holding positions of trust and responsibility; to these we ought to be known and countenanced. There is a way of reaching them, and it would be best accomplished by members sending to the secretary names of those known to them. The gentlemen's gardeners are always well informed, and would be of valuable aid to the Society.

There are also thousands of amateurs having fine gardens and green-houses, who do not have any professional help, and who would be delighted to join us, if only for the sake of encouraging us; we can always promise in our published proceedings such information as will always be acceptable to our supporters. The very fact of our members being composed of those interested in the best methods of cultivation guarantees our being heard and appreciated among amateurs. The horticultural societies of the country should enlist in our interest; their interests should be our interest, and so help each other at every turn. The past season's trade among florists, notwithstanding the general depression in other branches of industry, was never better; this proves that lovers of flowers are generally not prevented



from buying flowers, though other trades do suffer from general depression. It is a very cheerful outlook under the circumstances, and we may look forward to still more support when the tide of prosperity again sets in.

Of all the beauties there are to be found in nature, flowers stand pre-eminently first. They evidently are intended by the Creator to be companions of the human family. The man or woman is not born who does not inherently love flowers; it is only those who have unfortunately been denied the opportunity of ever seeing flowers that do not love them. I have a very intimate friend who five years ago did not know one flower from another. He is a very active business man in one of our large cities, and well supplied with the world's goods. At that time he was induced to visit one of the flower shows held near his house. The impression left upon him was so deep that he determined to have flowers of his own. His city lot was unkempt and uncared for. What did he do? He immediately set to work, had the lot nicely turfed over, walks laid out, with borders on each side, a circular bed in the center planted with coleus and other plants. The interest awakened his love for flowers, and grew until he determined to have a greenhouse. To-day he has a greenhouse that has cost him over two thousand dollars. He has a collection of plants that no professional man need be ashamed of. He is a critic in many varieties of plants, capable of judging as correctly as are many florists. There is not a florist's window that he does not stop to look in, and you could not buy the pleasure he has now for untold money. Here is a case where true love, when once awakened, has not faltered. I frequently pass through the poorer quarters of New York city. There the love of flowers is to be seen among the poor children. Many probably have never seen a green field. How their little faces brighten up, their eyes beaming with delight at the sight of a few flowers. If they could be constantly associated with flowers would they not grow up better men and women than they are likely to do without?

Again, I claim that florists are among the best educators in the country. They teach by example as well as precept all that is good and true; they will mould the character of generations to come; they help those afflicted with sickness, and make the long hours of pain more endurable. They teach also that, with even all the buffetings of life, there is really something worth living for, and that withal the beauties of nature are ever truthful, full of inspiration, and prompt us all to do that which is right.

The President announced, as next in order, the report of the Treasurer and Secretary.

Mr. HUNT, Treasurer :

*Mr. President*—In the first meeting held at Chicago, a year ago last June, the returns were necessarily very perplexing, and perhaps not quite accurate. I, therefore, desire that a committee be appointed to audit the accounts before the report is submitted to the Convention.

On motion of Mr. HAMILTON, of Pittsburgh, a committee of three was appointed to audit the accounts as rendered by the Treasurer, the committee to consist of Messrs. R. J. Halliday, C. L. Allen, and Mr. Murdock.

The report was laid over until the afternoon session.

#### THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Your Secretary begs leave to report as follows: Some thirty or forty persons met in the city of Chicago, on June 19th, '84, and organized the Society of American Florists by the election of officers and the appointment of vice-presidents for the different States.

The Society, from its formation, has received the encouragement and financial support of a large number of the profession; and by their active co-operation we are enabled to report at this, our first general meeting, a large list of members.

I attribute much of the success attending our efforts to the carefully outlined work of our preliminary organization, followed by the constant attention of the Executive Committee, the circulation of the printed matter of the Society, and the evident need among florists for such an organization.

The commercial florists of the country are earnestly with us, and the prospect for a strong and increasing membership could not be better.

The details of the efforts put forth in behalf of the Society are too well known to need recital here, except to say the results obtained have been brought about by continued and persistent work. Members of the Executive Committee visited the florists of New York city and vicinity, and urged the claims of the Society upon their attention, with, we believe, gratifying results.

The Executive Committee met at Pittsburg in February last, and outlined the programme of this meeting.

The matter of collecting statistics and data regarding the losses by hail has occasioned much labor and expense, but we believe the information obtained will be of practical benefit to an intelligent consideration of this subject.

A very large sum has been expended in printing and mailing the prospectus and circular letters issued by the Society, but we believe the money thus expended has to a great extent caused the Society to attain its present prosperous condition.

Your Secretary would acknowledge the uniform kindness and generous support received from the officers and members of the organization; and returns his sincere thanks for same.

Submitted,

E. G. HILL, *Secretary*.

The PRESIDENT: You have heard the report of the Secretary, a motion to accept will be in order.

On motion, it was received.

The PRESIDENT: Next in order of business is the enrollment of new members. Those gentlemen who are not already members of the Association will have the opportunity of joining now.

Mr. ROBERT CRAIG, Philadelphia, Penn. :

*Mr. President*—I think it will be found that a great majority are already members of the Association. Will it not be better to allow them to make better use of their time, and if there are others who wish to become members, let them remain until after the session for that purpose? I move that the order of business be changed to the report on By-Laws and Constitution.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. CARMODY, of Indiana :

I move that when we adjourn at noon, we reassemble in Dexter Hall. The motion was seconded and carried.

The PRESIDENT: It is now in order for some member to move the appointing of a committee on By-Laws and Constitution.

On motion of H. A. SEIBRECHT, of New York, a committee of three was appointed for remodeling the By-Laws and Constitution.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Vaughan will report on the Constitution and By-Laws.

Mr. J. C. VAUGHAN, of Chicago :

I believe a committee has been appointed for remodeling the By-Laws and Constitution. Will the Secretary read the same?

Vice-President JORDAN, of St. Louis, Mo. :

I move that this be made a special order for 3 o'clock.

Seconded and carried.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to Dexter Hall, where Vice-President JORDAN, as presiding officer, proceeded with the business of the meeting. First, a telegram was read by the Secretary from the New York Horticultural Society, as follows:

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12, 1885.

JOHN THORPE, President Society of American Florists, Music Hall, Cincinnati:

The New York Horticultural Society hails the Society of American Florists, and invokes a triumphant session.

JAS. T. MURKLAND, Secretary.

Next came the enrollment of new members, during which time impromptu speeches were made by several members.

Mr. HENDRICKS, of Albany:

*Mr. President*—I stand before you to say a few words, which I trust will meet your approval. It more than gratified me this morning to hear the words addressed to our worthy President. I know that his work has been fully appreciated, and he that gives in good measure shall be more than repaid. I am delighted to see you all, because I believe this unity of friends, the exchange of thoughts and experiences among our florists, will make the world better, and we will return home with pleasant memories, and much the wiser for the three days' sojourn in Cincinnati. We are here to learn from the experiences of others, as many of us make attempts and fail, while others make attempts and are successful. We would be glad to hear from any one who has made many experiments. There is no one I know of, whose talk would be more interesting on this subject, than Mr. JOHN HENDERSON, a man, I know, who generally succeeds in all his undertakings. [Applause, and calls for Mr. HENDERSON.]

Mr. HENDERSON:

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen*—I hope I can give you the information which you have a right to expect, and that which will be the most interesting to you. I have, as you are well aware, taken up different kinds of plant growing, at various times, in order to find those best adapted to the New York market. About the first growing I did was in a temporary structure, made of hot-bed sash, in which I had been growing vegetables, which I converted into a greenhouse. The stock consisted largely of fuchsias, geraniums, verbenas, etc. After experimenting a number of years, I took up the business of cut-flowers, continued the other line for a time, and on finding that the receipts were about equal, I did not hesitate which

branch to adopt as a permanency. It was necessary to crowd the business of pot-plants in the market during the three months, March, April, and May, and hence the season was so short, and, as the larger purchasers of plants left town about the last of June, the receipts from that time were very small. Hence, I decided to devote my attention to cut-flowers. I have given the rose my particular study; but, in regard to rose culture, I think the less I say on the subject the better, as there is a paper to be read, by one of the gentlemen, on this subject, and it would be unbecoming in me to say anything about it until the paper is read. One other remark I feel called upon to make, and would like to direct your attention to this: people are apt to say, if a man gets on in the world, "his success is owing to luck." Now, when I came to this country my time was from 4 in the morning until dark, at night; and, it is to be remembered that when I came to this country, it was to keep my family from getting down in the world, and not having the luxuries they had been accustomed to. It was for this I worked, and that I have succeeded is not owing to any affair of "luck," but is the result of hard and constant labor. [Applause.]

Mr. J. E. BONSAI, Ohio:

What I wish to say is this: there is one subject I want information on, that is the forcing of violets. My soil is a sandy loam, but I have never yet met with that success I wish. Now, if some one here can give information enough to be of benefit, I shall feel thankful.

Mr. HENDERSON was called on, and stated that, as no one seemed to give the desired information, he would do the best he could. He pronounced violets to be one of the most peculiar of plants, which require most careful cultivation. They should be set nine inches apart, in rows, and kept clean. In the month of October they should be lifted and placed on the benches, watering them as little as possible, as too much water causes the leaves to rot and drop off; as to the cause of their not thriving, the only reason he could see was that they did not like the treatment they received during the winter time.

Mr. TAYLOR asked if Mr. HENDERSON considered the *forcing* of the plants the cause of the disease. He had never heard of it until after the time of forcing, but the disease appeared in England and Holland, where they did not force them, but grew them in cold frames.

A member: Will Mr. TAYLOR describe the appearance of the disease?

MR. TAYLOR:

It looks as if an insect had been eating the leaves, which have the appearance of being scorched. As soon as this appears, suddenly there seems to appear a black spot, and the effect on the plant can be noticed. Some die during the winter, and some go through the winter all right. During October and November we did not have so much trouble. Now, I tried it for two years, and finally gave up the culture of violets entirely. I took considerable pains to get new plants and cultivate, but it seemed to be a failure.

MR. W. SEIBRECHT, of Astoria :

Two seasons ago I went into violet culture. I knew there were difficulties to contend against, but did not see why they should get the disease if they were taken good care of. Well, I watched them every day, and gave them more attention than ever before, but I noticed that the leaves began to be blighted on some. I kept picking them off, and picking them off, until there wasn't anything left to pick. [Laughter.] I could not see any reason for their getting diseased; but I set to work to find out the trouble, and very soon saw, deep in the heart of the bunches, a nice little bit of a spider running. [Laughter.] The bite seems to poison the plant, and they gradually get that brown and scorched look, and finally die. And now, I do not think that any one can grow violets with any success that has these peculiar little spiders on his place. It is only certain soil that the spider prefers. There is some soil in which the spider runs about, and you can hardly see how or where the little ones run about. They run in and out in every direction, and wherever they touch the plant it "keels over." Now, can any one tell us how to kill these spiders? [Laughter and applause.]

MR. HENDERSON, of Albany, N. Y. :

I have grown violets with marked success for the last three years. Some years ago I discovered that sulphate of ammonia diluted with water was a remedy, and have had little or no trouble since. Use a spoonful of ammonia to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gal. of water, and syringe the plants.

MR. DILLON, of Bloomsbury, Pa. :

I only grow a few violets, but am now having very good success. We grow them in benches, and during the latter part of July shake them out, and after proper attention, or renewing the soil in the benches, replace them, and they do nicely. Our house is about 11 ft. wide, and the benches are up from the ground two or three inches, with a good circulation of air.

## RECEIPTS.

Received from 77 charter members, @ \$5.00.....	\$385 00
“ “ 142 members 2.00.....	284 00
“ “ 2 “ 7.00.....	14 00
Total.....	\$683 00

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid for postage, stationery, and printing.....	\$326 34
“ “ rent of Music Hall.....	100 00
“ salary of Secretary.....	68 30
In hands of Treasurer.....	188 36
Total.....	\$683 00

Approved—C. L. ALLEN, ALEX. MURDOCH, ROBT. J. HALLIDAY,  
Auditing Committee.

The report of the Treasurer was accepted, on motion.

The PRESIDENT: I understand that Mr. R. J. HALLIDAY, of Maryland, is to give us an essay, by request, on the disadvantages of cultivating and advertising innumerable varieties of the same plant.

## ROBERT J. HALLIDAY'S PAPER.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

Our object here to-day is to complete the organization of a society to be known as the Association of American Florists. In order that this society be a success, and its perpetuation insured, each one is expected to contribute something towards its advancement. This success can only be attained by liberal-minded men, not afraid to divulge any knowledge which they may possess, and which will benefit their fellow workers. Knowledge confined to an individual produces nothing; it is only profitable when circulated. I do not hesitate to say that the wider our ideas or thoughts are disseminated the more useful will be our Society.

The subject which I will introduce may contain some points that will prove of service in the future, if they should not be considered worthy of notice at present. The idea I wish to advance relates to the cultivation and advertising of exaggerated numbers of varieties of one species, amongst which there is but little distinction, causing unnecessary time and labor to be lost by the grower, as well as bewilderment and dissatisfaction to the purchaser.

There are too many varieties of Roses, Camellias, and Azaleas, as well as many other species of plants, between which there is very little real difference. For the past few years the tendency has been to increase the

list of varieties beyond limit by multiplying names almost indefinitely, as if each one was striving to advertise the largest number and the longest list, overlooking the very important matter of having distinct kinds. We are constantly producing and importing new sorts, many of which are good and distinct, and just as many worthless, on account of their similarity. Yet they are all added to our lists, year after year. Now, would it not be better to discard the poorer sorts and those nearly identical in color, retaining the best and more distinct kinds, and then advertising those only, in such a way that the purchaser need not hesitate in making a selection?

Look over the great Rose growers' catalogues, and you will find their lists could be reduced one-half, and still have enough to represent all the varied forms and colors.

Take up the Azalea and Camellia catalogues, at home or abroad, and you may discover the same long lists, most of the varieties being good, but too many names, without the desired distinction of character. Can there not be some means adopted of revising the long lists that appear annually in our catalogues, and which are a task to keep pace with? Intentionally none of us advertise worthless stock, but it proves such to the purchaser when the colors are so much alike.

The committee appointed to judge of the merits of many new plants, for which there will be certificates awarded, will, I hope, use great discretion, and these awards when consulted should serve the purchaser as a guarantee of their sterling worth.

I would suggest that a committee be appointed to condemn varieties of little variation, whether they have been grown for years or are of recent introduction.

I consider that the progress in floriculture would advance very rapidly should these ideas be carried out. I will attempt to give emphasis to my suggestions by comparing varieties of little distinctness.

Take four Azaleas, all imported and established kinds, Criterion, Baron de Prit, Baron de Vriere, Magniflora. These are the finest varieties both in quality and color, being salmon, rose, rose-salmon, and salmon spotted; they are different in some respects, one from the other, but too much alike for the amateur to class them as four separate kinds. No one would wish a collection of such varieties with so little difference in the color. Why not drop all but one of this set, giving the preference, say, to Criterion?

Select four Roses of the Bengal class, all different in some respects, but too much alike to be classed as distinct kinds, Agrippina, Louis Philippe, Cramoisi-Superieur, Queen's Scarlet. Why not adopt Agrippina or Queen's Scarlet for those four? Not that I would advocate discarding the



other three. My idea being only to make the selection less complicated to the amateur cultivator.

Roses of the Hybrid Perpetual class are lovely when in flower, but their similarity is more marked than those of all the other classes combined, two hundred being found in some lists, which number could be reduced one-third with advantage. The same fault will be found in Camellias, some growers advertising nearly two hundred; one-half of these are what might be termed "trash," not worth the space they occupy, and fifty of the hundred left, of too much similarity to others. Perhaps we could name fifty that might be called distinct kinds. I will name four whites, all different in some respects, but not of the decided difference that is wanted: Alba Plena, Albicans, Dunlap's White, Mary Edmonson. The four named are all white; my idea is not to do away with the other varieties so similar, but to advertise in such a way that those who want one or two dozen plants, can choose the most distinct kinds.

I will now name four red or rose-color Camellias: Adrian Le Brune, Brookleyana, Fordii, Sacco. These are all good rose colors, but too much alike. Why not take Sacco, or Fordii?

Take up any of our catalogues containing a list of the plants named, and you can drop three out of every four, and then have a list large enough, and one which would do us, as growers, much more credit, as the quality will then be considered of more importance than the number of sorts offered.

This, it seems to me, Mr. President, and gentlemen, is a reform which is needed, and which will redound to our own interest, and to the satisfaction of our customers. It is one which a single individual cannot accomplish, nor even several separated in location. But it can be effected by the positive action of this body, whose recommendation will carry the stamp of authority. One cultivator, or a few, by pruning their lists, would be at a disadvantage, as compared with others who maintain the exaggerated and duplicated lists to which objection is urged. Why not make a practical and effective move forward by empowering a committee of this Association to consider the subject and report at our next session, as proposed?

Mr. HAMILTON, of Pittsburg, Pa., moved that the paper just read be filed, and printed with the proceedings of the Convention. Carried.

Mr. ROBERT CRAIG, of Philadelphia, heartily endorsed the suggestions contained in Mr. HALLIDAY'S paper, and thought the Society ought to consider this matter, which was of practical importance to them. He moved that a committee of ten be appointed to revise the nomenclature

of plants in this country. The motion was carried, and the following gentlemen were appointed: Robt. Craig, R. J. Halliday, Ed. Lonsdale, Chas. Henderson, John Heinel, Robert George, J. M. Jordan, Luther Armstrong, Wm. Hamilton, and H. DeVrey.

The PRESIDENT: The next thing in order is the report on Constitution and By-Laws.

The Constitution was adopted as read, section by section, after some changes in Articles 2, 4, and 5.

A motion was then made to adopt the Constitution as a whole. It was carried.

The By-Laws were adopted, section by section, after changes in §§ 2, 3, 4, and 7.

A motion was made and carried, that they be adopted as read.

A motion was made to strike out that part relating to the Secretary's salary. Carried.

A motion was then made to increase the Secretary's salary from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. of the receipts. Lost.

On motion, it was decided to leave the Secretary's salary, as at present, at 10 per cent. of the receipts, with proper allowance for hotel and traveling expenses.

The PRESIDENT: The next in order is new business.

The Committee announced on Supplies was: Messrs. Salter, R. Lynex, Rolker, W. J. Stewart, W. H. Buckbee.

The Committee on New Plants—Messrs. Tom Ferguson, James Taplin, W. Hamilton, and R. J. Halliday.

On Cut Flowers—Messrs. W. K. Harris, Alex. Murdock, F. R. Pierson, Henry Michel, and Lewis Seibrecht.

On Arrangement of Donated Plants—Messrs. Wm. Seibrecht, Thomas Jayne, J. H. Taylor, and Robert S. Brown.

On Wood Cuts, Pottery, and Lithographs—Messrs. James Hendricks, C. L. Allen, and Edgar Sanders.

On General Plants—Messrs. Walter W. Coles, Chas. Henderson, John Henderson, Wm. Armstrong, J. T. Temple.

The PRESIDENT: The plants that have been donated for the benefit of the Hospital are on exhibition. At what time are they to be disposed of?

On motion, it was decided that the plants were to be disposed of by Pres. THORPE, under advice of the Local Committee.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to 7 P. M.

## EVENING SESSION.

AUGUST 12, 7 O'CLOCK.

The Convention was called to order by the Chairman.

Mr. THORPE reported that the Committee on Disposition of Plants had decided to dispose of the donated plants at auction, and devote the proceeds to the charitable institutions for which the plants had been intended. After the sale of these, Mr. CRITCHELL, of Cincinnati, would place on sale a fine collection of Crotons, and he would donate 15 per cent. of the proceeds to the Hospital fund. These plants to be auctioned on Thursday afternoon, by Mr. ELLIOTT, of N. Y.

The PRESIDENT: The first thing in order this evening was to have been a talk by H. DEVRVY, of Chicago, on *The Floral Embellishment of Parks and Gardens*; but as he is not present, by request the time will be occupied by Mr. W. HAMILTON, Superintendent of Parks in Alleghany City, who will give an impromptu talk on the same subject.

Mr. HAMILTON:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—I did not expect to have anything to say this evening on the subject of public parks and grounds; but I will say a few words on the general principles which should be laid down in the management of parks and gardens. The things to be studied are, what will give rest and pleasure to our public. It does not depend altogether on the number of feet of ground cultivated, but rather on the perfection to which the grounds and gardens are brought. You must give the people the best that can be produced. Get the best seed, the finest plants, and lay before the people the best examples of decorative art. The education of our people should be kept in mind in the decoration of public parks; their comfort and convenience should be consulted; the walks should be straight, and brilliant coloring is preferable. The cropping and tending of the plants should be well and carefully overseen, and should look to advancement in Floriculture, as well as in the taste of the public.

Mr. HENDRICKS fully endorsed the remarks of Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. C. L. ALLEN, of Hinsdale, N. Y.:

The common practice of waiting until after death to speak a kind word of a friend, when it can do him no good, is deeply to be regretted. And it is indeed very singular that we cannot correctly inventory a man's character in life. Why not look upon the beautiful and good, instead of the evil and false, in human nature, and say the same sweet things in life,

as we would after death, when they would encourage and build up in him a noble character? Man is entitled to whatever good opinion his fellow-man may have of him, and it is robbery to withhold it. At this point we wish briefly to speak of the obligations the trade are under to our President, Mr. THORPE, and of his value to the world at large as a horticulturist. And as custom has decreed post-mortem justice, Mr. THORPE will, for the moment, consider himself, for all practical purposes, dead. This will enable us to speak unreservedly of his knowledge as a florist, and of his noble, manly character.

It has been our good fortune, for the past several years, to have known Mr. THORPE intimately and well. We have known him as an investigator in the same field of thought; we have known him as a competitor in business, and we have never met a more unselfish or disinterested rival, either in search of knowledge or of a customer. His heart, head, and hand have ever been at our command, and to him are we indebted for the most valuable knowledge we possess.

Having through life been a student of the sciences, natural history, and ethnology, as far as my mechanical and farming operations would permit, I have been brought into frequent contact with men of similar tastes, men of scientific and literary attainments. I have had Doctors of Divinity come to trace out the analogy of the spiritual natures of the pre-historic and the present races; Doctors of Medicine come to know from whence comes the specifics for various diseases; Doctors of Dental Surgery come for the history and nature of a certain gum-resin, now being used in their profession; Geologists, Mineralogists, and Palæontologists come to repeat the beautiful stories of the rocks, which we have heard from childhood. But never have I been so highly honored as when the late (?) Mr. THORPE sat at my board. When others came they told me what Agassiz, Darwin, Tyndall, and a host of others knew, all of which was at my hands without their coming. When Mr. THORPE came he told me what *he* knew, and that was more than all the rest combined. His knowledge was the result of his own thought, experiment, and observation. Theirs was merely recitation. Mr. THORPE'S power of observation was simply wonderful; he could analyze colors with the most perfect accuracy, and detect forms and shades that keen observers would pass unnoticed. He could distinguish a clear yellow as a base of color in the Geranium, and had turned his attention to its separation, and had he lived, I firmly believe he would have succeeded in his efforts, and a pure yellow Geranium would have been one of the results of his selection and cross-fertilization. Mr. MAY spoke of a Scarlet Rose as a desideratum. Our late President had already turned his attention to the development of that color, and that

too, would have come had he have been spared long enough to have completed his experiments. These great changes are of slow growth; it requires time, patience, and industry to develop them; but that they are sure of accomplishment may be asserted in view of what has already been accomplished in the same direction.

Mr. THORPE believed in plant individuality; that each and every plant had a life analogous to our own; that the only way to be successful in their cultivation was to study them, take them into your own hearts, train them as a parent trains a child. If you want to know and appreciate a Rose, take the Rose and study it; if you want to know and have fine Geraniums, take the Geranium and study it; if Fuchias, Gladiolas or Lilies are your hobbies, study them. You cannot get a true knowledge of them from books. Prof. Agassiz would not allow his students to have a book of any kind. He said to them: "You have come here to study Mollusks and Rock; here they are before you, now study them." I do not indorse books as a medium of learning in Floriculture. If you want perfect flowers you must work for them, and with them; their perfection will be the result of your individual applied thought. The training of a plant to be successfully achieved, must be done like the training of a child, step by step. We cannot be educated to love plants; the love of plants, like all other loves, must be innate. If the Almighty has given us a love for flowers, we can educate and develop that love. There is a love of the flower but little known or understood; it is a love far beyond that which form, color and fragrance excites. That love can only be secured by living with plants and flowers.

The nature of every plant is as delicate and subtle as that of a person, and each plant is as different from another as one human being is from another. Therefore we cannot apply general rules to their culture; no two are alike, therefore no two will thrive under the same treatment. An intelligent appreciation of a flower will only evolve from our familiarity with it, and successful cultivation will be the result of a thorough knowledge of the plant itself, its capabilities for adaptation to the soil, climate, and situation you have for it. Books will enable you to make a selection, to learn the history of a plant, to show you its outside. But that love for the flower which ennobles and purifies the soul, must come from you; it must be inward.

Books teach us that all flowers evolved from the lowest order of vegetable forms, as did man from the lowest germ of animal forms. I am happy to say that the late Mr. THORPE shared with me an opposite view. That when the Almighty wanted a man he created him, and did not say, "Here is a monkey, or a germ; I have done my best; now natural law,

take what I have done and build higher." Pomologists say that the crab-apple is the parent of our delicious pippins. I scarcely think Divine power has entrusted to the Pomologist a greater work than Itself could perform.

Mr. CARMODY, of Evansville, Ind.:

I beg leave to disagree with Mr. ALLEN in some respects. To read and study books is to begin with the present era, to do without them is to go back to the Dark Ages; and I think it is the duty of every one to publish his experience for the benefit of his fellow-craftsmen, and the world at large. The greatest benefit derived from the art of writing and printing is the perpetuation of experiments and discoveries in the arts and sciences. No matter what may be your profession, trade, or occupation, you must have had some experience that another has not. If it is worth anything, publish it, in order that the world may be better for your having lived. It took 4,000 years to make a man that could make a telephone. How much longer would it have taken if Dr. Fay, Morse, Franklin, and other scientists had kept to themselves the results of their experiments in electricity?

Mr. THORPE:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—Do not believe that Mr. ALLEN'S remarks on books show his real views. He has one of the best libraries I ever saw, and he not only has books, but he also makes good use of them in reading. [Laughter.]

The PRESIDENT: The next in order is an essay on the cut-flower trade, by Mr. W. J. STEWART, of Boston, Mass.

#### MR. STEWART'S ESSAY.

The cut-flower business is a business of the future. It is still in its infancy. How encouraging it is to know that we are not engaged in a business which has been raked for long years, and which ingenuity and taste have not yet worn threadbare! How the cut-flower business grows! A few years seem to work such a revolution in the methods of conducting it, that one must keep wide awake or he will be left far behind.

With my own practical experience, dating back but sixteen short years, it would be out of place for me, in this company, to attempt more than to allude to the old times. But even in these short sixteen years what changes have taken place!

I can well remember the time when the greater part of the long list of now popular Roses was unknown. In Carnations we were limited to two

or three good varieties. Smilax had only recently been introduced, and in many places the Camellia was still the flower "par excellence." A Tea Rosebud in winter was a marvel to the ordinary mortal, and a luxury seldom indulged in by people of small means. Now, even the poorest shop-girl does not feel content without a bunch of roses to wear. And imagine any one now trying to build up a flower trade by means of those wonderful patchwork bouquets, set in circles and stars, and geometrical figures, with the individual flowers cut into little pieces and sections, and each bit duly mounted on a broom-straw!

For the local florist in small towns and suburban communities it is manifestly necessary that he have green-houses, and that he should raise a little of everything. He must have flowers to cut for bouquets and small transient orders, plants for house culture or bedding purposes, etc. But for his larger orders and for the general stock of those doing a large business, I believe the cheapest and most satisfactory system is to depend upon the productions of others. The endless list of varieties now familiar to customers, and which it is necessary for the florist to carry in stock, can never be economically produced by one establishment, no matter how extensive or well managed it may be. I assume, therefore, that the cut-flower dealer of the future will find it more desirable to purchase his goods than to raise them himself, and the producer will also find it best for him to raise his flowers solely for disposal in the wholesale market.

Now, in regard to the different methods of disposing of flowers. The old way, now fast becoming obsolete, was by contract. This system flourishes only where the demand exceeds the supply, and the grower has everything his own way. But when new green-houses have been built, and the supply is fully equal to or greater than the demand, the florist knows there is no longer any necessity for engaging in advance, and he will not bind himself down.

Then comes the next system, peddling. The grower takes his box in the early morning and goes from store to store and offers his goods, at one price here, another price there, and often he gauges his price by the willingness or unwillingness of his customer to buy. So thus it becomes too often a game of squeeze, the florists squeezing the growers when goods are plenty and trade dull, and the growers returning it with interest when the demand is good and flowers scarce. A most pernicious custom resulting from the condition of things just described, is the practice of keeping flowers stored away for a long time. When prices are low, the grower packs his flowers away and waits for a rise in the market. The florist goes through the same process, buying several days in advance of a holiday at low prices, and holding the stuff to deliver to his customers as fresh. Now

all this does not deserve the name of a business. It makes a man of business instincts almost ashamed of himself for being engaged in such work. It is just here that I claim the commission system comes in as a relief. The commission man serves to bring the goods and the market for the goods into immediate contact, yet keeps the grower and the buyer far enough apart that they cannot bull-doze one another. At least, I may say, this is the tendency. That it is an accomplished fact is not yet quite true, however. Any one who has tried the commission business knows well how far from peaceful his lot is, and will doubtless be often reminded of the Bible maxim, which tells us that we cannot serve two masters. As it is, an important part of a commission man's work consists in explaining to the grower why he sells so cheap, and to the buyer why he charges so much.

Such are the results of the cut throat methods so long indulged in, that people do not seem willing to sell a flower for what it is worth, or to pay for it its real value. But we are improving, and the improvement, although slow, is yet sure, and since the partial adoption of the commission system of disposing of flowers, the tendency has been toward greater stability in prices. The faults of the system are such as will in time disappear, and competition in this, as in other lines of trade, will finally bring about prices approximately regular, and such methods of receiving and distributing flowers as will produce the best results in prices realized and customers satisfied.

My thoughts revert to the time when the wholesale shipping of flowers was in its infancy. As far as the shipment of Roses is concerned, I suppose Boston may claim priority. The retail florists did all there was of it. Those were palmy days. No endless variety of names, colors, and prices. No advanced systems of packing, yet no fault-finding with the goods by the buyers. All they asked for was Roses, and when they opened the box and found it really contained Rosebuds, and not potatoes, perchance, they were happy, and paid their bill without a murmur. So the old Bonsilene, after being handled over on the retail counter all day, was just in proper condition to ship to New York at night, and at the highest retail price, too! For New York in those days was our best customer, and I have often thought that the Boston florists rather killed the "goose which laid the golden egg," as the New Yorkers, ever ready to see a chance to make a dollar, quickly said: "Why there must be money in growing roses at such prices." So, in they went, with the result that New York comes to us as a customer no more.

To come down a little farther in the history of flower shipments, I well remember my own astonishment, when in New York one day I heard



a young man assert seriously that he was about to open a store for the sale of flowers exclusively at wholesale. The project seemed so visionary and so impossible of successful accomplishment, that I could scarcely believe he was in earnest. Yet he succeeded, and his followers are many and their number is every year increasing. I have no data to guide me, and any attempt at figures is mere conjecture, but I estimate the cut-flower commission trade now amounts pretty well up toward a million dollars annually. So it looks as if the commission man had come to stay.

The question as to the best methods of packing flowers for shipping is an all-important one. Nothing injures good flowers more quickly than careless or frequent handling. When it is considered that in the ordinary course of business, from the time they are cut until they are finally delivered to the retail customer, they are subjected to not less than ten or twelve handlings, the importance of extreme care is apparent. It would be an invaluable improvement if some wide awake florist would devise some cheap arrangement of boxes in which flowers could be at once packed when cut, and in such a manner as to require no further handling in shipping or selling. Imagine the effect on a crop of strawberries if they were picked in bulk, and then packed, unpacked, handled over, and changed a dozen times! Yet that is what we do with our flowers, which are more delicate than any strawberries.

The conditions required by different flowers are so various, and the evils to be guarded against vary so much with the weather and the season, that any set rule for packing flowers for long distances is an impossibility. One thing we all know: Carnations must be packed dry; other flowers, such as Lily-of-the-Valley, Hyacinths, and bulbous flowers in general, are easily discolored and rotted by close confinement in a damp place. Yet the stems of these, and of Roses especially, must have moisture to preserve them in a fresh condition. Another great drawback to the reliability of flower shipments lies in the treatment they receive from expressmen carrying them. Two boxes of equally good flowers going the same distance at the same time may be subjected to such usage that one will arrive in good condition and the other be ruined. For one box may be set near a stove, where it will be spoiled by heat, or it may be placed by an open door or other exposed place where the cold wind whistles round it till it is frozen stiff. Yet the shipper is blamed for the result. Even in the coldest weather, I have found that it is generally best in long distance shipping to use ice with Roses. It may do much good, and can do no harm, if not placed where it will come in contact with the petals. That ice packed in a box of flowers is apt to freeze them is an absurd fallacy, yet it is astonishing how many people believe it. Cotton is drying and injurious

to flowers, yet there is nothing I have found yet to take its place entirely, although a liberal use of paper is a great protection. I think it better to pack in a number of small boxes rather than to put a large quantity of flowers in one case, as the danger of heating in the center is less.

And now I have a suggestion to offer. It might be possible for this Association by combined action to make some arrangement on trunk lines, at least, similar to the refrigerator cars which carry meat and fruit across the continent. A compartment in the express car fitted out as a refrigerator and large enough to carry several packages, would obviate the necessity for using ice or cotton in packing. Flowers which were fresh at time of shipment would under such treatment arrive in perfect order always. I suppose the object of this Society mainly to be the obtainment by united effort of such advantages and improvements as would benefit the greatest number, and which could not be accomplished by individual effort. What I have proposed, if it could be arranged, would be of great value alike to growers, shippers, and retailers, and would reduce to a minimum the risks from heat and cold, besides making a large saving in the expense of packing.

Let us remember the small beginnings from which our business has grown, and its remarkable development within the past few years. Not the least important evidence of this growth is the organization of this Society. I believe this Society can accomplish wonders. In union there is strength. Let us not forget how dependent we all are upon each other. Whether growers, commission men, or retailers, our best interests are identical, and with united and harmonious effort we can do much for the mutual good of all.

With the great variety of climate our country affords, it will always be true that flowers can be produced more economically, or of better quality, in some sections than in others. Better soil, cheaper coal, brighter sunlight, all are factors that must be considered more and more carefully, as competition forces prices down to the lowest limit. So, though you keep on building green-houses in every section of the country, yet the business of shipping fresh flowers from the more favored points will still continue, and, I believe, rapidly increase.

With railroad and telegraph facilities constantly growing and extending, and the probability of long distance telephone communication in the near future, we have abundant encouragement to devote our best efforts to the development of our business in all its branches.

Essay received with applause.

The PRESIDENT: The subject is now before you for discussion. I will ask Mr. MAY to give us his ideas on the subject.

Mr. MAY, of Summit, N. J.:

I do not think I can say much, as the paper has so admirably set forth the necessities and inconveniences of the trade, that it is complete without discussion. But I think, when I look back to the beginning of the flower trade, and see the varieties, as Mr. STEWART says, which were so scarce and inferior to those of this date, and the vast improvement in both quantity and quality of those in the market, I think we certainly ought to be able to keep up with the times in the constant changing of the fashion in flowers.

ROBERT CRAIG, of Philadelphia:

I consider it a little unfair that I was put down for this discussion, for the subject is one in which I have had little experience; it is a little out of my line. I have never had any experience in cut-flowers, and Mr. STEWART has gone over the ground so thoroughly, that we can not bring out anything new. I know it is necessary for us to do all we can to get new and perfect varieties, but we do not want too many red roses. We want to settle down to one red rose. The days of Pierre Guillot are over, and the Bennett will soon have its day; then others must fill their places. There is a constant demand for the best of everything, so we must try to keep the best of the new varieties; pick out the best plants and grow them, and when we find something that will supersede these, propagate it, and get the *very best*. Find out the best thing of its class, drop everything else, and bring it to perfection.

Mr. J. C. VAUGHAN, of Chicago, said they did about as much in the cut-flower business in Chicago as anywhere else, and it was an indisputable fact that the handling of flowers by shippers was such as to cause constant friction between dealers and shippers. He knew there were many others beside himself who felt the need of investigating the matter of expressage, to see if fixed rules could not be laid down and referred to, that protection might be insured the flowers after leaving the dealer's hands. He mentioned Mr. YOUNG, Mr. JORDAN, and others, who could give light on the subject.

Mr. THORPE:

When Mr. STEWART was asked to prepare his paper, he said he could not do it; did not know how; had never written a paper, and did not know what to say. I consider Mr. STEWART'S paper one of the most instructive papers offered to this Society, and it will benefit us to discuss it.

Mr. LONG, of New York :

It seems to me that this matter should be of great interest to the Society, and especially to the commission men, and I know there are many who would like to have some information, especially on shipping.

Mr. ALLEN, of Hinsdale :

Before the discussion goes farther, I move that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. STEWART for his valuable paper.

The motion was carried.

Mr. YOUNG, of New York :

I move that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the shipping of cut-flowers, especially as to matter touched on by Mr. VAUGHAN, the committee to report at Dayton, on Friday.

The motion was carried.

Mr. CRITCHELL, of Cincinnati, thought the express companies to blame for nearly all the loss on cut-flowers; that the flowers seemed to be a sort of scape-goat, on which expressmen could vent their spite. They take the money, but if there is anything to be left over it is the flowers, which must freeze and go twelve hours later. There should be some way to make the express companies ship such things immediately, or be held responsible.

Mr. J. M. JORDAN, of Missouri, said they had found it a very good plan not to leave plants at the express office, but deliver them direct to the express messengers.

Mr. HUNT, of Chicago, said that so far as his experience had gone, he had found that kind remembrances in the way of a bouquet or basket of choice flowers, left for the members and employes of the companies, had done as much or more for the safe transfer of their flowers than any other reminder.

Mr. VAUGHAN, of Chicago, thought Mr. Hunt's plan might work well for a retail grower's business, but it would not answer for wholesale and commission.

It was moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to take into consideration and report on the suggestions offered in Mr. STEWART'S paper.

Committee: Messrs. Vaughan, Critchell, Jordan, Young, and Long.

wanted, and it seems you think I am possessed of a similar wand, and that all you have to do is call and you have that which you wish. I have no knowledge of rose culture, and tell you so frankly. I do know one thing, however, and that is, I can produce more roses for less money than any other man in this country. All I have to do is to go to my friend, THORPE, and say "roses," and my arms are full. Now, there are two or three things in this discourse. Mr. MAY says there is a great necessity of new roses by fertilization. Now plants have all the power of reproduction that animals have; plants, like animals, can only endure so much; if they go to the limit in one year they die. Every plant has a mission to perform; they will give just so many blooms. If you force the plant to bloom all in one year, you can get new plants at the end of the year. There are over a thousand varieties, and no two perform the same work; yet each has a work which it does patiently and well. Now, there is an increasing demand for everything new. Constant changes in fashion and taste call for constant changes in all branches as well as floriculture. In order to keep up, you must resort to all kinds of new varieties of interest. These roses mentioned here and the value of the roses themselves, as well as the market value, are indeed worthy of striving for. Mr. BENNETT has taken two distinct classes of roses, and by his earnest endeavors has succeeded in bringing a rose upon the market, (W. F. Bennett,) the beauty and value of which is already known. He is fully repaid for the labor in the production of this one rose. There is no good reason why American men cannot produce as good roses in America as those produced in England and France, and when they say they cannot, they acknowledge their inferiority to foreign horticulturists.

Mr. BONNAR, of Ohio:

*Mr. President*—There is information wanted by small rose-growers in the country, and this subject does not reach it. It is, how to raise the largest and best plants for trade in the smallest possible pots.

Mr. J. M. JORDAN, St. Louis, Mo.:

I would like to speak a few words for the Mississippi Valley. The most of the discussion so far has been for our Eastern friends. Where we have a climate in which the thermometer rises above 90°, it requires us to find some way to have more shade from the sun. In regard to the treatment of roses grown in pits during the summer, they must necessarily have more drainage, and one-third is generally given by us. Another point it would be well to consider is, what to grow and how to grow it, to keep up a continual bloom. The plants must be kept healthy, both summer

and winter. The more cultivation and care they have the greater will be the return in roses. It is of the utmost importance that the grower not only understand the fertilization of plants, but he must understand just how much is necessary to give the plant the power of continual blooming without too much drain. There are many points to be considered by our Western florists, which are not so important to our Eastern friends. In the different climates the care and cultivation must differ in some respects.

Mr. MAY, of Summit, N. J. :

I do not know that there is opportunity to say much on the subject of benches, but I want to say I have tried both ways and succeeded. As said already, the cost of the bench system may be a little more, but when you get down to the actual figures, I think you will find the benches render you more dollars and cents than the beds. But the short time for discussion leads me to suggest that the subject be worked up for our next Convention; as rose-growing will always be of deep interest to us, and in the future will become a still more important question.

On motion of Mr. LONSDALE, a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. MAY for his valuable paper.

The PRESIDENT: The next thing in order is an essay by Mr. HENRY MICHEL, of St. Louis, Mo., on "What Shall We Grow for Early Spring and Summer Cut-Flowers?" As Mr. MICHEL is indisposed, his essay will be read by Mr. ARMSTRONG, of St. Louis, Mo.

#### WHAT SHALL WE GROW FOR EARLY SPRING AND SUMMER CUT-FLOWERS?

This is a subject of prime importance to those of us whose daily bread depends upon the sale of cut-flowers, either to the trade or for floral work. In addressing you upon it I shall of course treat it from the standpoint of our own experience in St. Louis and vicinity; for, as you are aware, many flowers may be profitably grown in the East, and to the North of us, that with our hot dry climate would prove failures.

Those who grow for the wholesale trade naturally seek such as can be grown in large quantities, and for which there is a ready sale. These, again, must be selected with a view to good shipping qualities; that is, such as will bear transportation to a distance, involving probably twelve hours of time after leaving our hands, either in the early spring or the extreme heat of summer. Such blooms have a much greater value than many others that are indispensable for home use and immediate consumption. Of the flowers we consider the most valuable for the general trade,

we name the Rose first, of which I give you a few of our leading varieties, viz.: Safrano, Bon Salene, Compt la Carthe, Isabella Sprunt, etc., all of which you will recognize as old stand-bys, and which we esteem very valuable for early spring use only. When the warm weather sets in we want something more substantial, such as the Marechal Niel, Perle des Jardins, Sunset, Niphotos, Claire Carnot, and Cornelia Cook where it will succeed. General Jacqueminot, General Washington, Madame Charles Wood, and all the hardy perpetuals are valuable; nor is the old Madame Plantier to be omitted. Carnations we find to be almost indispensable. If wintered in a cold frame they will come into bloom at a season when they are very welcome, and may be had in flower before the out-door Carnations come in. A good sized bed of seedling Carnations, raised from a good strain of seed, will produce a large percentage of double flowers, that will prolong the Carnation season at very little expense, and the single flowers be found very useful and much admired for floral work, when used as decorators. They will, however, not stand shipping, in which they lose their form and richness of coloring. The Scotch or Florists' Pink is another very useful and almost indispensable flower of this class. If a frame and glass is put over them in early spring we avoid transplanting, and have them fully two weeks earlier than those not so protected. We thus have a supply of flowers for fully six weeks, which can be followed with a succession of Candy Tuft, which has been previously sown at intervals for that purpose. The Pansies in their various shades and exquisite coloring are great favorites for cut floral work. The Tulips, Hyacinths, and Narcissus are indispensable in their season, as are also the Lilliums, *Harrisii Longiflorum* and *Candidum*, which are sold in large quantities. Of the double Tuberose we find the Italian variety to produce the most perfect flowers for out-door culture, but for growing under glass we prefer the Pearl, because at times it will not open its flowers perfectly if grown in the open border. The variegated Tuberose is also largely grown, for, besides its beautiful foliage, it flowers very freely and opens every flower perfectly. We have grown for several years, very successfully, a new and very distinct variety, which has some excellent qualities. It originated on our grounds some four years ago; is a single variety, with flowers about the size of the Pearl, and snowy white, and when fully opened the petals are recurved in the style of the Fuchsia, and has somewhat the resemblance of a large single Jassamine flower. It can be had in flower fully two weeks earlier than any other variety, and will throw up a succession of flower stalks. From strong bulbs we get two and three stalks in a season; indeed, we have had some to produce five from a single bulb. We have found instances where flower stalks would branch and form two

or three heads. This will eventually take the lead, I think, for a forcing variety. It has one disadvantage in being single, and its recurved petals are more apt to get broken in shipping than the double, but in floral work it is highly appreciated.

The *Gladiolus* are also coming into demand. Large quantities can be sold with long stems, for vase flowers, while the single florets are very useful in basket work. Large plants of the *Eucharis Amazonica*, if in healthy condition, will yield two or three crops during the summer without impairing their winter flowering qualities.

A well established plant or two of the *Stephanotis Floribunda*, planted in the border of the stove-house will yield a large and valuable crop.

In perennial plants we should have a good bed of *Achillea Ptarmica*. The flowers are white, resembling small *Feverfew*, are produced in immense quantities, and are excellent for decorators in floral designs; they are among the very best keeping flowers, and may be kept in good condition three or four days after being cut.

The *Wahlenbergia Grandiflora* is another white flower of good size, measuring about two and a half inches in diameter, and can be kept in constant bloom from June until frost. We know of no plant that will produce the same quantity of flowers of that size. *Euphorbia Corolata*, although a native, is well worth cultivating. In cultivation, its season is prolonged from the early part of July until the latter part of September. It seems, moreover, that the more flowers that are cut from an old plant, the more persistently it flowers, which when cut will keep fresh many days, and can be worked up to good advantage in the finest floral work. Of *Feverfew*, we should plant several rows, for they will furnish a constant supply of flowers. We find the variety known as the *Gem* the most desirable. When soil and locality are suited, a bed of *Lilies-of-the-Valley* will be found very remunerative. It is a universal favorite, and always in demand. We use the single variety only. The common blue *Forget-me-not*, if freely supplied with water, will flower throughout the summer. These comprise what are considered the most valuable flowers for the shipping trade. In recommending all that I have mentioned for home consumption, or immediate use, I would advise the cultivation of the following in addition: Commencing with the *Annuals*, we put the *Balsams* at the head of the list as the most valuable of all summer flowers. It is undoubtedly the very best flower we have for making the body of designs. With plenty of good *Balsams* and a few other good flowers to decorate with, a florist can always turn out good work. Of the other *Annuals*, for which we find ample use and a ready market, we may mention the *Phlox Drummondii*, in their varied and distinct colorings;



stock bright red and pure white; Asters, in all shades; Mignonette, and some double Poppies. Chrysanthemum, *Frutescens Grandiflora*, (*Marguerites*,) are mostly in demand for long-stemmed, loose flowers for vases, but not so much for designing.

In perennials and herbaceous plants, besides those already named, we would recommend *Spirea Japonica*, where it thrives out of doors, (In the vicinity of St. Louis it is not valuable as an out-door plant.)

*Delphinium Sinensis*, (Larkspur,) of the light and dark blue colors, are almost indispensable. The *Formosum* variety is very good and showy for the garden, but not so valuable as the *Sinensis* for cut flowers.

Then come the double Hollyhocks, very beautiful and very serviceable to the florist. Chinese *Pæonias* are much in demand for vase flowers, as are also the *Hemerocalis Graminea*, (*Lemon Lily*,) and the *Funkias*, commonly known as the Day Lily. Perennial Phlox are also somewhat in demand, but they drop their flowers too soon, which is an objection.

The Pink Everlasting Pea is a free blooming and desirable flower, on account of its color and lasting qualities.

And now last, but by no means least, I must mention the white flowering variety, *Lathyrus Latifolius Alba*, as destined to become one of the most valuable of white hardy perennials. The flowers are of the purest snowy white, and will, if kept under cultivation and occasionally watered, bloom from June until frost. The plants require to be two years old before one can get full returns in the way of flowers, but when once established, will last for many years, and will repay any special care bestowed upon them.

Of bulbs and tubers not before mentioned, we should grow the *Hyacinth Candicans*. They will yield a fair supply of flowers from the latter part of July until frost, and the single white bells work up to good advantage as decorators in designs. Next comes the *Ismene Calathina*, which we value very highly; the flowers are long, white, tube shaped, and come at a season when the Bermuda and other white lilies are very scarce, and to a certain extent take their place in large designs. They can be easily flowered from the middle of June till the middle of August, with occasional later flowers. Strong bulbs will produce one to two flower stalks, with three to five flowers each. The flowers are of a rather soft texture, and can not be transported as other lilies can, but for immediate use they are very profitable.

*Richardia Alba Maculata* should be grown in large quantities. Grown in the open border they are pretty foliage plants, and flower very freely, and on account of their size come in very useful in all sorts of funeral work, especially in large designs, where they are frequently used in clumps

of eight or ten flowers. Probably the only objection to them is the fact that if not cut as soon as they open, they are apt to turn green, but if cut in time and kept in the dark they will keep their delicate white color for several days. Basera Elegans, a new Mexican bulb, we find flowers freely from July till October. They are borne on long stems, and have a pretty cluster of orange scarlet flowers that will last several days cut.

Of green-house and bedding plants, we find the favorite Heliotrope of very little use during the summer months, but they come in very useful as soon as cool nights set in, when we can get the perfect flowers.

Of the Bouvardias the Humboldi, Alfred Neuner, Davidsoni, and Elegans will yield a paying crop. Old stock plants that have been forced in pots the previous fall will, if planted out in early spring, flower profusely.

Grand Duke and Maid of Orleans (or Arabian) Jasmine can be grown to great advantage. Old plants in a well prepared border fully exposed to the sun and watered freely, will never be without a profusion of flowers. The blooms are white, and make excellent decorators on designs, and are found very useful in boutonnieres, on account of their fragrance. (Tabernamontana Coronaria will do remarkably well with the same treatment, and flower freely.) Even small cuttings of these Jasmines when bedded out will hardly ever be without flowers after they are once established. In double scarlet Geraniums to cut for single pips, we recommend the varieties known as Sapier Pompier and La Paville; the latter we think the best of the two. A few double Ivy-leaved Geraniums should be grown, of which De Brassa, Congo, and Jean d'Arc are probably the best to cut in the whole truss. As we are treating of cut-flowers, it may not be amiss to mention the Rose Geranium. For foliage they are indispensable to a florist's establishment. For this purpose we find the Odoratissima the most useful, because of its strong, vigorous growth; leaves borne on long stem of a dark green, not too large, rather deeply cut, and very firm; they make a good support for button-hole bouquets. Another Geranium that can be profitably grown out of doors for florists' use, especially for edging in white or funeral work, is Madame Salleroi. It stands the heat better than any of the other so-called silver-edged varieties. For foliage for trimming designs, baskets, bouquets, etc., we should have a good supply of Ferns. The most available are the Pteris Tremula, Pteris Argyrea, the sword fern, Nephrolepis Exaltata, and all the varieties of Adiantum are useful. One of the most beautiful to go with cut-flowers is the Adiantum Farleyense. In fact all varieties of the Fern are useful. A good way to handle them after cutting from the plant is to lay them in cold water for about an hour; if well saturated they will retain their freshness much longer than if merely sprinkled after cutting. Of Smilax we should always

have a liberal supply, and the only difficulty in having it in summer is the thrip. If that can be mastered, there is no reason why we should not have an abundant supply.

Another and very important thing in the cut-flower trade is to be well supplied with a collection of hardy shrubs and climbers. Of these we may mention the Honeysuckle in variety; the Clematis comes in useful. The *Deutzia Gracilis*, *Deutzia Crenata*, *Deutzia Crenata Alba Plena*, Philadelphia, or Mock Orange, *Wiegela*, *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora*, *Spirea* in variety, *Hibiscus*, etc., all of which when once planted will be of little expense or labor, and often come in at a time when very much needed. We may add also the white and pink double-flowering peach, double-flowering cherry, double-flowering prune, and the double-flowering apple.

Mr. THORPE heartily commended the paper, and added to Mr. MICHEL'S list the following: *Asparagus Tenuissimus*, *Coryopsis Lanceolata*, *Anemone Japonica*, *Anemone Japonica Alba*, *Honorine Jobert*, *Lychnis Coronarius Albus*, *Spirea Filipendula Plena*, *Spirea Ulmaria*, *Milla Biflora*, *Helianthus Multiflorus*, *Chordes Albus*, *Montbretia Crocosmea flora*.

Mr. M. A. HUNT, Chicago, Ill. :

I heard my friend, a few moments ago, asking for some remarks from the Treasurer. I have not lived so long as some of you, and do not say anything, because I have nothing to say. We came here, as Paul of old to sit and learn (of these Gamaliels?). I have learned a great deal, and all I have to say in relation to the matter before us now is that I think it very necessary to pay more attention to the June crop. We plant and make every effort to secure crops for January and February, and find that our plants at that time give little return to what we expect. I, for one, have decided to devote one house to the June crop of roses. I am sure we ought to pay more attention to this than has been done, for I think it would be greatly to our advantage financially.

On motion of Mr. HENDRICKS, Mr. THORPE'S valuable list was supplemented to Mr. MICHEL'S essay.

On motion of Mr. CARMODY, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. MICHEL for his interesting paper.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Pittsburgh, Pa. :

*Gentlemen*—I am not a plant grower in the sense of *florist*, but I would like to call your attention to a plant which you can grow for summer flowers, and which ought to have a place in every florist's garden. It

is the *Freezia Refracta Alba*. It is a free bloomer, in style not unlike the *Gladiolus*, and has a perfume like that of the *La France Rose* and *Violet*, mixed. You can grow it as you please, and it comes early. I wish to call your attention to it.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2 O'CLOCK.

The session convened at 2 o'clock in Music Hall. The programme began with the reading of a paper on "Steam versus Hot Water for Heating Green-Houses," by JOHN THORPE.

#### STEAM VERSUS HOT WATER.

This subject was expected to create a lively discussion, and it did. Mr. THORPE opened by saying: The heating of green-houses has been so well carried out the past twenty years by the hot-water system, so thoroughly understood and adopted, that it would not be easy to advocate any other method. The same was said thirty years ago, when the majority of green-houses were heated by flues. We have now, in the introduction of heating by steam, a rival to the almost universal hot water. In this paper I do not intend to champion either the one or the other, as I know we have among us able advocates of both. At the same time, I am always on the side of progress, and if steam-heating is the best, let us accept it, and do as did those of thirty years ago in the case of flues versus hot water. Admitting that all new-fangled ideas are not worthy of adoption, yet as many experiments help to solve difficulties, it would seem that for heating by hot water, the best application of it is as perfect as that system can well be. It is useless for me to-day to ask which is the best, hot water or flues? As I have stated, however, hot water has had a fight for the position it holds. The progress steam-heating has made during the past six years leads many to think that it is the true method of heating, and that hot water must go. How far this is true time will tell; we can not help feeling that there is a good deal of truth in the statements made for it, and that many establishments are most successfully heated; on the other hand, we have to admit some failures as great as were the failures in hot water on its first introduction.

Mr. A. B. FOWLER, of Exeter, N. H. :

With a view of obtaining the comparative value of a ton of coal used in heating green-houses, I sent out circulars to fifty florists, part of whom heated by hot water and part by steam. So far as possible they were arranged in couples, that is, one heating by water and one by steam situated close together, asking the questions: What is the area of ground actually covered by glass? Do you heat by water or steam? What is your average temperature? How much coal do you burn? These were mostly sent to districts where anthracite coal is used; some few were sent into the soft coal region, but the data obtained from these few were not used. Another point was the over estimate placed on area covered by glass, and in the places heated by steam, of all of which I had personal knowledge. These errors were rectified. The same may have been the case with the returns from places heated by water, but these were accepted as they were returned. This, of course, would help the hot water side of the comparison. The returns received represented about the same quantity of glass in each case. Reducing them to the same standard, the result was that one ton of coal consumed in a hot-water apparatus had heated 108 square feet of ground covered by glass to a temperature of  $53\frac{1}{3}^{\circ}$ , while the same burned under a steam boiler had heated 149 square feet to  $60\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ . It is hardly my province to go into a discussion of the relative growing qualities of the different methods of heating, but if any of the members wish any information regarding the construction of steam heating apparatus and will ask me any questions I will endeavor to answer them.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Pittsburgh, Pa., stated that in the vicinity of Pittsburgh all the establishments were heated by steam; and though he did not use it himself, he thought it was a saving of one-third in fuel. He thought, however, that it might not be a saving in small establishments, as steam required constant attention; and where it was necessary to work until 12 P. M., by the time extra expense for help was considered there could not be much difference.

Mr. BOCKMAN, of Pittsburgh, Pa. :

Perhaps I had better state how I came to use steam. It was through an accident which happened to the pipes, and which could not be repaired short of three weeks; to put in hot water pipes in winter takes time. It was a matter of losing all the plants unless some remedy was found quickly. I decided to try steam temporarily, and it was put in in less than two days. We used small pipe, the locomotive boiler, to heat nine houses eleven feet wide, and I expected to use it until I could put in hot water. I found such great advantage in its use that I have not the hot water yet. My friends all expected my steam boiler to blow up, or do some such thing,

but it proved to be such a success, and under many experiments its advantages were so marked that many were fully convinced of its superiority. In regard to the consumption of fuel, I have not the exact number of tons with me, but will say that to about 30,000 feet of glass it took a little less than two cents per square foot for warming throughout the winter. My establishment was visited in the summer by MESSRS. HENDERSON and THORPE, but at that time of the year they, of course, had to take my word for it. As the best and most economical heating was then, as now, a matter of the greatest importance, I published an account of it later, in the *Gardener's Monthly*.

A member: I would like to ask your opinion of boilers.

Mr. BOCKMAN:

I have so far used locomotive boilers. It is true that they require a little more cleaning out. Your boiler must be suited to the fuel you burn. For bituminous coal, a boiler thirty feet long is the best boiler in the world. It is very evident that in this we have discovered a haven for florists.

Mr. TAYLOR, of L. I., stated that the consumption of coal had not been so heavy with them as formerly; where they had used 400 tons before steam was put in, they now used 300 tons. He heated the water in tanks before sending it to the boiler, and used about five pounds pressure. He, himself, would never use pipes larger than one inch, for the reason that you got more heating power than from others.

Mr. JOHN SPAULDING, of Connecticut:

In regard to steam in small places, I have a friend who has about 6,000 feet of glass. He had it heated with hot water, but took it out about a year ago, and put in Page's Steam Heater. I have been there several times during the winter, and find his stock better than ever before. And another point he makes is, that in about twenty minutes on Sunday morning, he can so regulate the steam that it will not need more attention until 7 P. M., when the temperature will be found the same as on leaving. He has also saved one-third in fuel.

Mr. CRAIG asked Mr. TAYLOR: Is there any economy in fuel in running at five pounds pressure? Several other questions followed relative to the number of buildings heated with the 400 tons of coal, etc.

Mr. TAYLOR:

During last winter, as it was a very severe one, we run at a high temperature, using throughout the coldest weather a pressure of ten pounds, but I could see when running at five pounds pressure that there had been

a decided saving. The 400 tons of coal was used to warm both houses and stables.

Owing to the fact that Mr. ELLIOTT, of New York, was obliged to leave for New York, the Convention adjourned to give him time to auction of the plants.

The Society convened at 5:30 P. M., Mr. STEWART Secretary *pro tempore*.

As there was not a quorum present, the meeting adjourned, on motion of Mr. HENDRICKS, to meet in the upper hall, at 7:30 P. M.

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### EVENING SESSION.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 7:30 O'CLOCK.

The Society was called to order by the President, and the discussion of "Steam Versus Hot Water" was resumed.

Mr. HENDRICKS, of Albany, N. Y. :

I first began warming my green-houses with square flues, and afterward used tiles. Finally I adopted the system of hot water, and I used that in three houses with marked success. Lastly, about 1874, I took up steam heating, and now I have twenty-five houses, fifteen heated by steam and ten by water. I want to say to those who have hot water, keep hot water; do not be influenced by others, unless they will give you new pipes for old ones. However, I do not hesitate to say that, without doubt, steam will be the heating element for the future. But to put it into the green-houses which have been built many years, will not pay. To be thoroughly successful and profitable the houses must be constructed differently. So if you want steam, wait until you rebuild.

Mr. THORPE :

"The application of steam is yet in its infancy, but the time will come when it will be universally adopted. Not only will it give better success in the growing of plants, but it will prove more economical. In heating 4-inch hot water pipes by steam, my experience has been a perfect success." Mr. THORPE had found that there had been no outlay since the adoption of the system, and the results had been satisfactory. He then explained the construction and arrangement of his pipes, by which the condensed water was disposed of by a fall of four feet in the pipes in position. As to the amount of heat given out, he had never before using them had such suc-

cess as since. "By placing the thermometer a foot above hot water pipes and steam pipes, I found that the heat diffused more rapidly from the steam pipes than from the hot water. I would not advise the changing of hot water to steam, but in building new houses, I would say, put in steam."

Mr. CARMODY, of Evansville, Ind., asked if there was any one present who used hot water.

Mr. JOHN HENDERSON, of New York:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—I have been called upon as the "some one" who used hot water. I have a very large establishment, 20 houses, over 120 to 121 feet in length. These are heated by hot water. I presume the call is to know my preference as to hot water or steam. I do not feel inclined to make any change, but if it was in the establishment of a new and large place, I should say, decidedly, use steam. I had a very good heater which I tried for a time, but it proved such a failure that I had to put in my old one again. When you have already put in your pipes, I do not think it best to change.

A member asked why he (Mr. HENDERSON) would put in steam in a new place.

Mr. HENDERSON answered that he thought the consumption of coal would be less, and in the end steam would be more economical.

At this point the debate was interrupted by WM. CUNNINGHAM, who, with violent gestures and "br-r-o-a-d brogue," exclaimed: "D'ye see? I'd like to have ye commence over agin. Let us know where ye stand." Vice-President JORDAN stopped him with, "Are you a member of this Society?" "Not at present," was his answer. Being declared out of order, he left the hall in high dudgeon.

Mr. HENDRICKS, of Albany, next took the floor with: "I have a word or two to say—" Here he was solemnly addressed by Vice-President JORDAN with: "Are you a member of this Society?" Blank astonishment on Mr. HENDRICKS' face gave place to an illuminating smile, as he replied: "Yes, sir; yes, sir, at present," then proceeded. He thought there was a saving of 10 per cent. in using steam, but that they should pay attention to the experience of a man like Mr. HENDERSON, and there was undoubtedly much truth in what he said.

Mr. CRAIG, of Philadelphia, rose to say a few words. He thought the steam side of the question was getting too much of a show. He had used, and still used, hot water in his houses, and had received little encouragement to change from friends who had thoroughly tested the steam. In running steam at low pressure, he thought there was no economy of fuel.

Mr. RYAN, of Yonkers, took the floor to add a word in behalf of the



hot water system. He thought the very hot pipes (steam) had a tendency to so rarify the atmosphere as to cause depression of plants.

A motion was here made to the effect that the discussion be closed, owing to the lateness of the hour. It was carried.

The next business taken up was the report of the Committee on Hail Insurance, consisting of M. A. Hunt, J. C. Vaughan, and E. G. Hill.

Mr. HUNT:

*Mr. Chairman*—It is very much to be regretted that the time set apart for the discussion of such important subjects as this one and that just finished should be at this late hour. They are both very interesting, but as it is late, we shall not inflict a long report on you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HAIL INSURANCE.

Ever since the organization of this Society, over a year since, a great degree of interest has been manifested by the members in various parts of the country in the matter of Hail Insurance, or of indemnity in some form for losses arising from this cause; and our worthy Secretary was for a time so besieged with letters of inquiry upon the subject that it was deemed best at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Pittsburgh, in February last, to institute inquiry, in a systematic way, for the purpose of obtaining statistics to lay before the meeting that would be reliable, that they might be used as a basis for future action should the Society deem it best to pursue the matter further, after having discussed the subject in its various phases and bearings.

To this end circulars soliciting information as to actual damage that had occurred during the last twenty years were sent to the Vice-Presidents of the different States, with the request that they be thoroughly distributed, and although this involved considerable expense, it seemed to be the only way in which reliable information could be obtained. All the States solicited responded promptly save two. We are unable to make any report for Rhode Island, or New York; and from the Vice-President of the last named State we were unfortunately unable to obtain a reply to any communication addressed to him, a fact much to be regretted, as New York is a large State, and it seemed very desirable they should be represented in this report. The summary of the reports received is as follows:

No. of States heard from.....	18
“ “ reports solicited.....	1,600
“ “ “ received.....	244
“ who report loss.....	102
Least No. of ft. lost by one person in any one year.....	10
Greatest No. of ft. lost by one person in any one year....	7,500

As it may be of interest to members to note the gradual increase of area and loss from year to year, the reports have been condensed, showing the increase in glass and loss each year commencing with 1865 :

YEAR.	NO. OF FEET OWNED.	NO. OF FEET LOST.	PER CENT. OF LOSS.
1865 .....	261,282	800	3-10
1866 .....	269,262	500	1-5
1867 .....	281,950	4,350	1½
1868 .....	240,161	3,020	1¼
1869 .....	238,911	550	1-5
1870 .....	252,489	2,455	1
1871 .....	395,608	2,150	½
1872 .....	439,620	10,375	2.3-10
1873 .....	461,747	1,775	2-5
1874 .....	453,199	4,180	¾
1875 .....	567,423	2,630	½
1876 .....	615,141	750	1-10
1877 .....	679,998	4,770	¾
1878 .....	784,078	7,130	9-10
1879 .....	930,589	15,575	1.1-17
1880 .....	998,848	13,400	1½
1881 .....	1,244,825	12,640	1-10
1882 .....	1,350,101	41,670	3
1883 .....	1,500,038	40,945	2.7-10
1884 .....	1,999,616	54,920	2¼

These reports show there have been 102 persons or firms who have suffered loss during the past twenty years. The aggregate amount of glass reported as owned by them is 828,032 feet, or a trifle less than half the total amount reported for 1884; while the total loss is 224,463 feet; nearly twenty-seven per cent., or, in other words, making a general average of the loss among the 102 who report losses, gives a loss to each of a little more than one-fourth of their superficial area.

While the reports from which this table was formed contained many errors during the earlier years, it is the opinion of your Committee that they very fairly represent the losses that have occurred during the last twenty years, and that they are a safe basis upon which to found any system of insurance that may be deemed advisable.

By reference to the table it will be seen that the reports of 1884 give a superficial area of 1,999,616 feet; with losses for that year of 54,920 feet, or about two and one-fourth per cent. It will also be noticed that the aggregate area reported for the twenty years is 13,873,985 feet, with corresponding loss of 224,463 feet, about one and one-half per cent.

When we consider that out of the 6,000 and more engaged in the

business throughout the United States, only 244 have reported, it is reasonable to suppose that a comparatively small proportion of the whole area is represented by the figures given; in fact, it is the opinion of those best qualified to judge that it does not represent thirty-three per cent. of the whole amount.

If this is the fact, and if the losses as reported substantially cover the ground, it will reduce the actual percentage of loss to less than three-fourths of one per cent. In other words, take the loss in 1884, 54,920 feet, at a valuation of seven cents per square foot, and we have a total of \$3,744. Supposing that 250 men form themselves into a mutual protective association and pro-rate this loss, the assessment would amount to \$14.93 each, *provided all the loss* occurring in the country fell upon these 250, a result that stands one chance in twenty-four. Provided 500 pro-rate this loss, the assessment would be \$7.46½, and their chances of paying the whole would be one out of twelve. If 1,000 band together for mutual protection, and they pro-rate the cost to each would be \$3.73, and if the premises we have assumed are true, there would be one chance in six of their having to pay the whole, of paying a certain proportion of it, or of escaping any payment whatever.

M. A. HUNT,  
J. C. VAUGHAN,  
E. G. HILL.

On motion, the report of the Committee was accepted and filed.

On motion of J. C. CARMODY, the Committee were retained, to report at the next annual meeting.

Mr. VAUGHAN stated that the subject ought to be discussed, and some immediate action taken.

Mr. HENDRICKS thought that as so few had responded—only 244—it would be much better to take more time for the consideration of the matter.

Mr. CARMODY withdrew his motion.

Mr. VAUGHAN said he saw no necessity for deferring this discussion, for the Committee were sure they had a correct report of every one that had suffered loss. The reason they did not hear from more was, that many wrote they had suffered no loss, and supposed their reports were not wanted.

If the members would be willing to enter into a Protective Association—say 75 or 100 members—the Committee would then have some scheme to lay before the members, which would be of great advantage. There ought to be some plan of relief, and he would like to hear from some of the members.

Mr. ARMSTRONG spoke of those florists who have small establishments, and had suffered heavy losses from lack of something of this kind. Those who had extensive establishments were better able to stand losses, and he thought there ought to be some such thing as the formation of a hail fund inside the Society.

Mr. HUNT, of Chicago, was here called upon.

Mr. HUNT:

I do not know what more the gentlemen wish me to say. We were not appointed to make any plans to lay before you, but were simply requested to make out the report of actual losses, and have done so. As to the meagreness of the reports, I think one reason was the way in which the circulars were made out, for many thought from these that they were not expected to report unless *they had met with losses*. If 100 or more men in this Convention wish to bind themselves to form a Mutual Insurance Association, it can be done. I think I have no plan to lay before the Convention. The subject is one of interest to all, and we would like to hear it discussed.

Mr. KING, of Chicago, thought that if there was any action taken they had better stop talking, and act at once.

Mr. HENDRICKS took the floor, and said that Messrs. HUNT and VAUGHAN had both declared they had no plans to lay before the Society. How could they be expected to enter into that which they had not considered? He, for one, did not live in a hail district, and had never had cause to think seriously upon the question. He thought it decidedly best to give the subject over to the Committee, and take no action upon it until the next annual meeting.

Mr. SAUNDERS, of Chicago:

I have a short article, bearing on Mr. HENDRICK'S remarks, which I wish to read. He stated so decidedly that he was not in the hail district. I cut this from a city paper this morning. Mr. SAUNDERS then read a special telegram to a Cincinnati paper, reporting great loss BY HAIL in Central New York, on August 12. [Laughter.]

Mr. VAUGHAN wished to know just how many desired to go into an Insurance Association, and thought it would be best for some one to canvass the Convention on Friday, and take the names of all who wished to form the Association, and see if there were 75 or 100.

The PRESIDENT:

Shall the Committee be continued until further report?

Motion was made and carried to that effect.

Mr. HUNT said, as there seemed to be some who really wished to enter into it, they ought to be given an opportunity to express their desire.

On motion of Mr. KING, it was put before the house, and sixty signified their desire for a Hail Fund.

On motion of Mr. WALKER, the matter was left with the Committee.

Mr. CHAS. EVANS :

*Mr. President*—I want to make a motion that \$50.00 be added to the Secretary's salary this year, as he has been under a great deal of expense. The motion was carried.

Mr. HENDRICK :

I move that when this Society adjourn, it meet in Dayton, Ohio, to elect officers, and transact any other business that may be necessary. The motion was carried.

On motion, the Society then adjourned.

## FRIDAY MORNING'S SESSION.

DAYTON, OHIO, August 14.

The Society convened at 10:30 A. M., in the Opera House, Dayton, for the transaction of unfinished business.

The Convention was called to order by President THORPE.

Gen. PATRICK, Governor of the Soldiers' Home :

*Gentlemen of the Society of American Florists, Ladies and Gentlemen*—I am here to welcome you to the National Military Home; to its grounds, its lawns, its woods, its lakes, and flowers, and what you may find of interest while you are here to-day. It has been weeks since I, myself, have looked over these grounds, and I find them baptized anew by the rains of Heaven, revived from a drought that threatened to destroy all their beauty. You will find guides who will go with you over this immediate place, and you will find our officers here in the various departments. In the libraries and hospitals you will find free access. We are glad to welcome you.

Mr. HENDRICK, of Albany, N. Y. :

*Mr. President, and General Patrick*—In that good old book which we all believe, it was said that God's highest creative work was the estab-

lishment of the Home. The word, to me, is the most sacred one in the English language. It is the birth-place of all I love; and if God has given me one aspiration above another, it is to make that home typical of that grand home beyond. Now, when I visit this Home it affords me deep pleasure to see the stars and stripes float over it. We accept the freedom of the grounds and your hearty welcome in the spirit in which it is given.

MR. ALLEN:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—When coming out of the cars this morning, I was asked to say a few words, the sense of which you will fully understand as we proceed. In cathedral architecture symbols are used to represent the outward as well as the inward life. Gargoyles are placed on the cornices, of the most hideous forms, revolting to the eye, and to man's finer senses. They represent the diabolical in the human soul. In the interior there are emblems, representing not only man's higher nature, but they show clearly the outward form of the soul's thirst for immortality. So in the outer world, man's face may or may not represent character. Some faces are pleasing to look upon, others are not particularly attractive; in neither case do they represent character. Here I may say that I have never been able to understand why some noble, generous souls should be so common-place in their appearance, while some of the most cold, unfeeling hearts should be furnished with such beautiful caskets. Perhaps it is because of the law of compensation. Upon the whole, it is safe to say that features are not representatives of feeling. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* has, during the past few days, taken no little pains to illustrate its columns with distorted figures of some of us, whose faces would not be selected as models of beauty for an art gallery. In this respect, I think, our President, in connection with some of us, has had his share also of these special attentions, and it is our pleasure now to speak of his true work, his inner life, and high moral nature. That my feelings are shared by others, in fact by all who know him, is evident by the little memento which now, my good friend, I beg leave to present you, on behalf of your friends present. And I can truly say that its every tick will only represent the throbs of the warm and noble hearts that claim you as their friend."

Thereupon, MR. ALLEN presented MR. THORPE with a superb gold watch and chain, bearing the inscription, "With true friends' greeting," and upon the case, on one side, "1885;" on the other, "J. T.," both in monogram.

MR. THORPE:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—I do not know what to say. How can I thank you for such a beautiful present? I have done nothing more than

any man should have done. If it has been my pleasure to impart information to any one, I have been more than repaid, for I feel that we all are here to be of what aid and benefit we can to our fellow-beings. And now, if what I have done, in my short life, has been of benefit to others, I am glad I have lived so long.

Why I should have been the recipient of this handsome present, I know not, and if I cannot do the subject justice, do not for a moment think my gratitude and high appreciation any the less; for so long as God lets me live, I shall value this above all things. I thank you all.

Mr. SAUNDERS, of Chicago :

I also, on coming in the cars, was requested to make a few remarks, and it certainly could not be my acquaintance with the family, for that is, in a sense, limited. But there is one thing certain, we florists do not wish to appear as if we had robbed the pleasures of home by carrying off Mr. THORPE from his home circle so frequently. We know that his family have wondered much when he was wont to be away from home at night, and on questioning, he would reply: "Only been down to the Club." But as we florists could not get along without Mr. THORPE, we now wish you to feel that we do not mean to deprive you of the pleasure of a kind husband, but he was essential to the Club. Please accept this remembrance from his many friends.

Mrs. THORPE was handed a handsome lace-pin, the bars inlaid with Forget-me-nots in applied metal, and the central disc exquisitely engraved.

Mr. MAY expressed her appreciation and thanks.

The President asked if the delegates were ready to report on the Vice-Presidents for the different States.

Unfinished business was then taken up by the Society.

Gen. PATRICK :

*Mr. President*— Before proceeding to your regular order of business, I would say a word or two. In a gathering of this kind, where the delegates come from all over the United States, nearly every State in the Union is represented. I belong to a former generation, but there may be here some old florists or their sons, who will recognize in the Governor of this Home, the old President of the New York Agricultural Society, and its manager for many years. I shall be at headquarters the rest of the day, and shall be happy to see you there.

Election of officers was next taken up.

Mr. HENDRICK nominated Mr. JOHN THORPE as President for the ensuing year. Mr. THORPE was unanimously elected.

Mr. THORPE :

I little thought that you would entrust me again with the management of our Society. It seems so spontaneous that I have no other choice but to accept. I would be ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the great trust and the value you put upon my services; and I may say, gentlemen, the labor spent upon our Society, during the past year, has been spent most happily. We have succeeded in bringing into life a Society which is of great benefit. Six years ago, Mr. HILL and myself talked of organizing a Society of Florists at Cleveland. We had two or three recruits, and the circle grew larger until the last year at Chicago a good gathering of common sense people formed the Society of American Florists; and I can truly say that no Society in so short a time has accomplished so much. I predict that in five years the membership roll will be among the thousands. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you heartily for your trust.

Mr. JORDAN declined re-election for Vice-President, and nominated Mr. ROBERT CRAIG, of Philadelphia.

Mr. HENDRICK seconded the nomination.

Mr. CRAIG :

I simply wish to thank you for this confidence. I see in many directions how an association of this kind can do good work, but as time is limited, I will only say, I will do all in my power to aid the work of this Society so ably commenced.

Mr. HUNT was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, Mr. E. G. HILL was unanimously re-elected as Secretary.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Pittsburgh :

There being but one representative from the State of Kansas, and that being a lady, and believing a lady is just as competent as any gentleman, when she has ability, I move that the President appoint Miss EMMA BRISTOL Vice-President for the State for Kansas.

The PRESIDENT: It gives me great pleasure to appoint the lady you mention as Vice-President of Kansas.

Reports of Committee on Cut-Flower Trade were read, and on motion, were accepted.

Moved and seconded that the Convention adjourn until 2 P. M.



## AFTERNOON SESSION.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2 O'CLOCK.

The President asked for any unfinished business.

Philadelphia was put in nomination as the place for the next annual meeting. By ballot Philadelphia received all the votes except two.

Reports were read from the Committees on Cut-Flower Trade, Plants, and Horticultural Appliances, and accepted.

The "Hail" question came up again.

A report was made by Mr. PIERSON, of New York, to the effect that 50 to 65 would join, the others did not care for it. He himself was in favor of it; not that a stock company should take it up, but that a mutual society should be made. His plan was to make an assessment of \$1,000, as a fund, and assess as occasion required.

Mr. MAY had been interested in the question, and liked the idea spoken of by Mr. PIERSON. He reports that hail does take place in the East as well as in the West.

Moved, that the Committee come to some decision, and lay a plan before the members in the form of circulars.

Mr. PIERSON moved that the Committee be instructed to find and report the most feasible plan for a mutual fund, also.

Mr. HILL was excused from acting on the Insurance Committee.

Mr. VAUGHAN supports the addition of the names of Messrs. PIERSON, ARMSTRONG, MAY, and TAYLOR.

A motion was made and carried that these names be added to the Committee.

Mr. MAY thinks the Hail Committee should make report at the winter session of the Executive Committee.

Mr. ARMSTRONG reported for the Committee on Final Resolutions, as follows.

*Resolved,* That the members of this Society, wishing to acknowledge their many obligations for the courtesies extended during its session of 1885, do hereby tender their sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our entertainment, particularly to the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton R. R. and Soldiers' Home, for their delightful excursion; to the press of

Cincinnati, for its full reports and kindly notices of our meetings, not forgetting the life-like illustration of our leading members; to the Art Museum Association, where many of us spent a very instructive and profitable hour; to the Hon. HENRY PROBASCO, for the freedom of his grounds and kindly hospitalities extended therein; to the *Union and Advertiser* Printing Co., of Rochester, for printing our programme free of charge; and finally, but not least, to the Local Committee, who have been indefatigable in their exertions for our convenience and comfort.

[Signed.]

L. ARMSTRONG,  
J. H. KING,  
C. L. ALLEN.

On motion, the report was adopted.

Mr. MAY spoke of the handsome way in which Mr. JORDAN stepped out, and suffered another to step in.

Mr. VAUGHAN moved that the Secretary draw the names of the committeemen to be dropped.

After a handsome vote of thanks extended to Vice-President JORDAN, of St. Louis, who acted as Chairman of the meetings, and whose ability, good temper, and control added greatly to the success of the Association, the Society adjourned.

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#### NOTES.

A number of our members are in arrears for the first year's dues, and a few also have not paid for the present year; please remit at once.

On the return trip from Dayton to Cincinnati, some person, either by mistake or purposely, carried off the valise of our Treasurer, which had in it the list of names received during the meeting at Cincinnati. The loss has caused great inconvenience and trouble, and possibly a few names are not on our membership list which should be there. In this case address a note to either Mr. HUNT, or to the Secretary, and your name will be promptly added.

We bespeak your kind indulgence, if, in this Report, you should find your name misspelled or misprinted. (In this connection omit the "s" from the name of Mr. HENDRICK, of Albany, to whom we are greatly indebted for his entertaining impromptu speeches.)

Owing to noise and confusion in moving from Music Hall to the upper hall, some of the remarks of members were not taken verbatim, but we think the substance of each speech will be found in our Report.

The Executive Committee will receive, with thanks, any suggestions from members as to SUBJECTS to be DISCUSSED, or MEASURES for EXTENDING the GROWTH and USEFULNESS of our Society.

Address all communications to the Secretary.

#### OUR MEETING AT PHILADELPHIA.

The question is not, *who is going?* but who, in the profession, *can afford to stay away?* Questions of the utmost importance will be discussed, and let every member go determined to add somewhat to the success of our second annual meeting. Our Philadelphia brethren extend a warm welcome to one and all.

The matter of railroad rates is already receiving attention, and we hope to report a rate from leading cities West to Philadelphia, that will enable even those in limited circumstances to go. Full particulars as to rates, hotels, etc., will be given later.

E. G. HILL, *Secretary.*

# REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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## REPORT ON CUT-FLOWERS.

Your Committee report as follows:

V. H. Hallock, Son & Thorpe, of Queens, N. Y., exhibit a collection of 88 named varieties of Gladiolas, embracing the very finest kinds, in addition to half a dozen unnamed seedlings of more than ordinary merit; besides from the same firm there are *Montbretia Crocosmœflora*, a free blooming and effective plant, *Milla biflora*, a Mexican bulb, re-introduced, which promises to be a valuable addition to our summer blooming white flowers; a collection of seedling Geraniums which had unfortunately suffered in transit; a small collection of Lilies, among which *Leichtlinii* is the most striking, having lemon yellow petals, spotted with chocolate dots.

A certificate of merit is awarded to the collection of Gladioli.

From C. L. Allen & Co., Garden City, N. Y., there is also a fine collection of Gladiolas, consisting of 65 named varieties, to which we also award a certificate of merit.

From H. A. Dreer, Philadelphia, Pa., there is shown a collection of fringed double *Petunias* of great merit, being finely fringed, distinctly marked, and embracing a very large range of colors. A certificate of merit awarded. There is also an interesting collection of Gladioli, the coloring and markings being bright and distinct, though the flowers are rather small.

From E. S. Miller, Waving River, N. Y., an exhibit of annual flowers, which unfortunately arrived in poor condition, and were not in a fit state to decide their merits, except the collection of *Zinnia Elegans* and the *Eldorado Marigold*, which were very fine.

J. M. McCullough's Sons, Cincinnati, O., exhibit an unnamed collection of *Gladiolus*.

From R. B. Price, Price's Hill, Cincinnati, O., are also six fine spikes of named *Gladiolus*.

From E. L. Koethen, Zanesville, Ohio, a seedling *Salvia* of dwarf habit, resembling *Gordonii*.

From Frank Whitnall, Milwaukee, Wis., is a very handsome and artistic floral design.

From C. W. Turnley, Haddonfield, N. J., an expressive and very much appreciated motto in flowers, "Clasped Hands," and the words, "N. J. to Ohio, greeting."

From James King, Chicago, Ills., also an easel of dried flowers and grasses, with a lyre as the object, of same materials, being a very effective arrangement.

From Mrs. V. G. Bochman, Cincinnati, O., is a Masonic emblem of wax flowers and preserved Fern leaves, most effective and well executed.

From Nanz & Neuner, Louisville, Ky., metallic floral designs suitable for cemetery decoration, effective in appearance.

[Signed,]	WM. K. HARRIS,	LOUIS SIEBRECHT,
	HENRY MICHEL,	ALEX. MURDOCH.
	F. R. PIERSON,	

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#### REPORT ON PLANT EXHIBITS.

From Siebrecht & Wadley, New York City, a large and fine collection of decorative plants in perfect condition, embracing a fine specimen of *Alocasia Lindenii*, a well-grown plant of *Aralia Veitchii* in a three-inch pot, two very meritorious seedling Pitcher plants, *Nepenthes Osborniana* and *Siebrechtianum*, a perfect specimen of *Spherogyne Latifolia*, excellent plants of *Pandanus Veitchii* and *Anthurium Scherzianum*, and a fine little plant of *Raphis Humilis*. This last is quite scarce, and is very effective as a decorative plant.

Exhibits from J. M. Kramer, Marion, Iowa, a large and interesting collection of seedling *Coleus* that look very promising, and if they will stand the sun, they will be of value.

From B. P. Critchell, Cincinnati, O., a very large collection of *Crotons*, Palms, and other decorative plants, that contribute largely to the success of the show.

From Schiller & Kuske, Niles Centre, Ill., six well-grown plants of *Gloxinas* and *Cyclamen*.

From H. Waterer, Philadelphia, Pa., a fine plant of *Yucca Filamentosa Variegata*.

From David Ferguson, Philadelphia, Pa., eight well-grown, ornamental foliage plants, a very creditable lot of plants. The Committee particularly noticed the fine specimens of *Ficus Elastica Variegata*, *Dracena Goldiana*, and *Begonia Manicata Aurea*.

From J. Kift & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa., two novel and beautiful porous Fern Panels, (filled,) of which they make a specialty.

From Joseph Heintz, Jacksonville, Ill., several neat specimens in pots of Irish and Swedish Junipers, of various sizes.

The Plant Committee, in presenting their report, desire to call attention to the difficulties in the way of preparing a full or accurate report of the Plant Exhibit. The time occupied by the regular sessions of business, and some confusion in the arrangements of the plants, contributed to make their task a hard one, and they ask the consideration of exhibitors whose contributions may have been overlooked in any way. The difficulties alluded to will no doubt be remedied another year, when the details for the guidance of such committees have been better perfected.

To each a certificate of merit.

[Signed,]	WALTER W. COLES,	CHAS. HENDERSON,
	JOHN HENDERSON,	J. T. TEMPLE.
	LUTHER ARMSTRONG,	

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#### REPORT ON NEW PLANTS.

Your Committee on New Plants would respectfully report that they have carefully examined all of the plants exhibited, and whilst they do not find any plants that can be properly judged as "new," yet we feel that we will be justified in calling the attention of the members of our Society to a number of plants exhibited that are of great value, and that are not as well known, perhaps, as they should be:

*Ficus Elastica Variegata*; *Dracæna Goldiana*; *Dracæna Lindenii*; *Asparagus Plumosus Nana*; *Croton Andreana*; exhibited by D. Ferguson & Sons, Philadelphia.

*Yucca Filamentosa Variegata*, exhibited by H. Watterer, Philadelphia.

Bennett Rose, exhibited by C. F. Evans, Philadelphia.

*Asparagus Tenuissimus*, by B. A. Elliott, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Spherogyne Latifolia, Anthurium Scherzerianum, Raphis Humilis, Curculiji Recurvata Variegata, Kentia Australis, Pandanus Veitchii, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Nepenthes Osburniana, (seedlings raised in the United States,) Nepenthes Siebrechtiana; exhibited by Siebrecht & Wadley, of New York.

[Signed,]

WM. HAMILTON,  
THOS M. FERGUSON,

JAMES TAPLIN,  
ROBT. J. HALLIDAY.

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### REPORT ON SEEDS AND BULBS.

Your Committee on Seeds and Bulbs would respectfully report an exhibit of Roman Hyacinths and Lillium Harrisii, by DeVere & Boomkamp, New York, both of which were fair samples.

J. C. Vaughan, Chicago, exhibits the best Roman Hyacinths we have ever seen; thirty varieties of Dutch Hyacinths, remarkable for size, solidity, and in the most perfect condition; Lillium Candidum, very strong and perfectly healthy; also a choice selection of Tulips, Narcissus, and miscellaneous Dutch bulbs. We are pleased to notice so fine an exhibit, as it indicates a good supply of these desirable bulbs for fall planting and for forcing for winter flowers.

J. M. McCullough's Sons, Cincinnati, Ohio, make an interesting and useful display of vegetable seeds, including 16 varieties of beans, 15 of corn, 16 of peas, 10 of squash, 15 of grasses, 10 of melons, and 15 of miscellaneous seeds, all neatly put up in glass globes, correctly labeled, which make the display very useful, not only for the amateur, but for the professional florist.

To each a certificate of merit.

[Signed,]

C. L. ALLEN,  
B. A. ELLIOTT,  
WM. ELLIOTT.

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### REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION AND APPLIANCES.

Examined Thos. W. Weathered's ventilating apparatus, and consider his patented adjustable clamp lever for the arm to be of great advantage, as it will certainly accomplish the claims of the patentee of preventing any slopping on shaft, and being easily replaced if broken.





## REPORT ON FLORISTS' SUPPLIES.

The Committee desire to call the attention of the Society to the great strides that have been made in the past ten years in the way of artistic designs and true elegance in form of baskets and other receptacles for cut-flowers. We would strongly recommend a careful examination of the exhibits of these goods, and are sure that the time thus spent will not be wasted. Nothing shows the proportion to which our interests have grown more than the labor and money which have been expended on this one article of Fancy Baskets. Wire designs for funeral occasions are now made in scores of beautiful and appropriate forms, which were not thought of ten years ago. There is no pursuit followed by mankind, not even music, painting, or sculpture, which can claim a position in high art above our own business here represented, and the firms which have favored us with these exhibits, which in many cases are the result of their own untiring thoughts and ingenuity, show to the world convincing proof that among our number are to be found many true artists. We respectfully suggest to those whose duty it is to supply themes for essays in future meetings of the Society, that a very valuable paper might be written on this subject.

For general collection of florists' supplies, exhibit of Aug. Rolker & Sons, New York. We may mention as features worthy of special notice in this exhibit, a new design for funerals; also novelties in wire designs, Immortelles, letters, cut-flower boxes, and an unusually good assortment of Immortelles.

Exhibit of M. Bayersdorfer & Co, Philadelphia, Pa. Features worthy of special mention: A complete line of dried flowers, bouquet papers, and a novelty in the shape of a wheat field and sheaf, designed specially for this Exhibition.

Certificate of merit to each exhibitor.

[Signed,]

WM. J. STEWART,  
RICHARD LYNAX,  
H. W. BUCKBEE,

R. G. SALTER,  
A. D. ROHRER.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS OF STATES FOR 1886,

SO FAR AS REPORTED.

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<i>Massachusetts</i> . . . . .	W. J. STEWART, Boston.
<i>Vermont</i> . . . . .	C. E. ALLEN, Brattleboro'.
<i>New Hampshire</i> . . . . .	MARCUS ELLIS, Keene.
<i>Rhode Island</i> . . . . .	CARL JURGENS, Newport.
<i>New York</i> . . . . .	JAMES HENDRICK, Albany.
<i>New York</i> . . . . .	JOHN HENDERSON, Flushing.
<i>New Jersey</i> . . . . .	JAMES TAPLIN, Maywood.
<i>Pennsylvania</i> . . . . .	WM. K. HARRIS, Philadelphia.
<i>Pennsylvania</i> . . . . .	ALEX. MURDOCK, Pittsburgh.
<i>Ohio</i> . . . . .	ROBERT GEORGE, Painesville.
<i>Ohio</i> . . . . .	FRANK HUNTSMAN, Cincinnati.
<i>Delaware</i> . . . . .	WALTER COLES, Claymont.
<i>Maryland</i> . . . . .	R. J. HALLIDAY, Baltimore.
<i>District of Columbia</i> . . . . .	GEORGE FIELD, Washington.
<i>West Virginia</i> . . . . .	W. F. KRIEGER, Wheeling.
<i>Kentucky</i> . . . . .	FRANCIS MORAT, Louisville.
<i>Indiana</i> . . . . .	J. D. CARMODY, Evansville.
<i>Illinois</i> . . . . .	S. A. WOOLCOTT, Batavia.
<i>Illinois</i> . . . . .	H. L. PHELPS, Springfield.
<i>Wisconsin</i> . . . . .	FRANK WHITNALL, Milwaukee.
<i>Missouri</i> . . . . .	LUTHER ARMSTRONG, St. Louis.
<i>Kansas</i> . . . . .	MISS EMMA BRISTOL, Topeka.
<i>Iowa</i> . . . . .	J. T. TEMPLE, Davenport.
<i>Minnesota</i> . . . . .	R. J. MENDENHALL, Minneapolis.
<i>Louisiana</i> . . . . .	R. MAITRE, New Orleans.
<i>Colorado</i> . . . . .	C. R. GALLUP, Denver.
<i>Tennessee</i> . . . . .	E. S. NIXON, Chattanooga.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST,

For 1885.

- Armstrong, Luther, Kirkwood, Mo.  
Anderson, Chas., Flushing, Long Island, N. Y.  
Asmus, Ernest, West Hoboken, N. J.  
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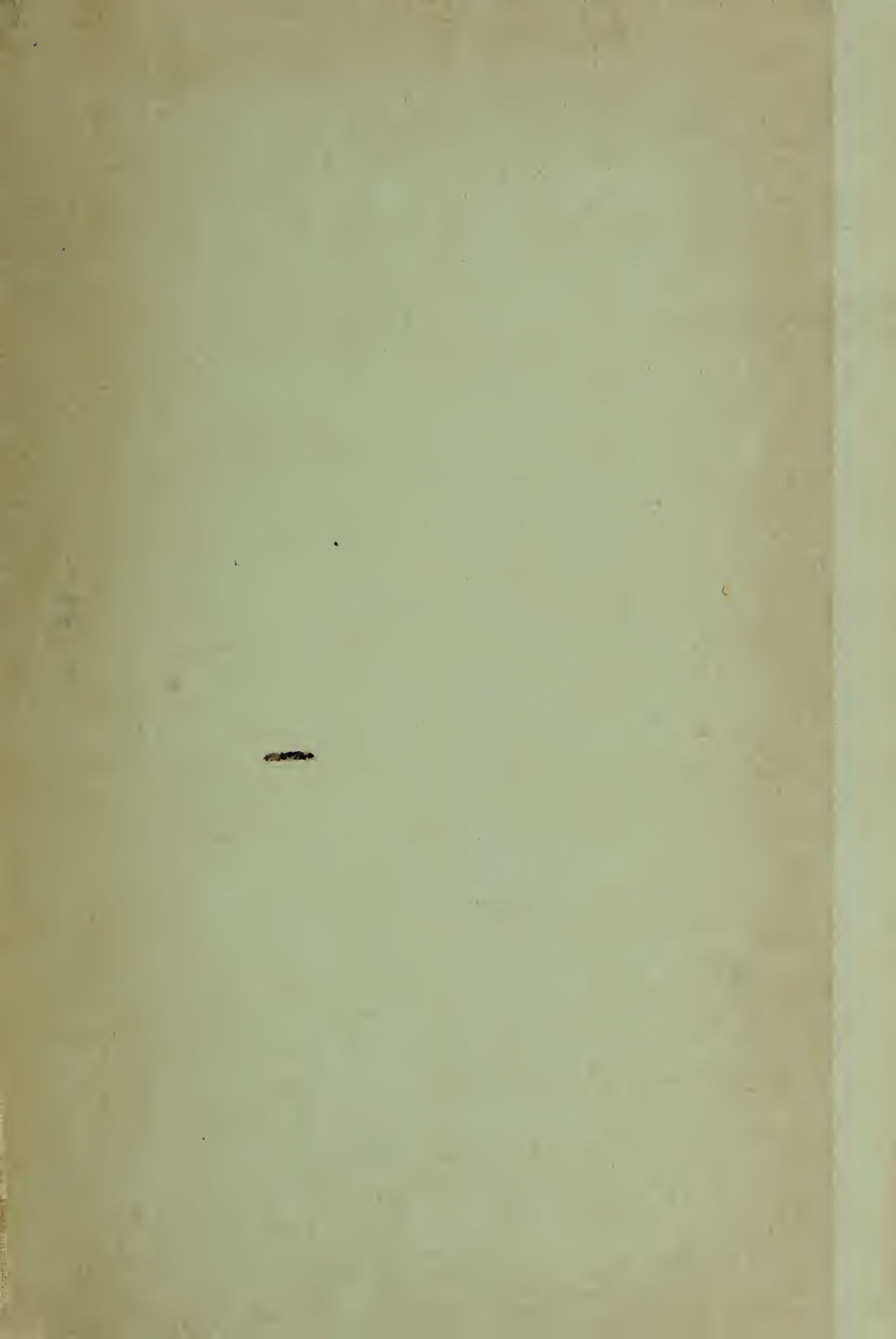
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