PAXTON'S

FLOWER GARDEN.

BY

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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232. Cypripedium guttatum. Swartz. A hardy terrestrial Orchid, with white flowers spotted with purple. Native of Northern Russia, Siberia, and North America. (Fig. 112.)

This charming plant has lately flowered with Mr. Van Houtte, of Ghent. M. Planchon may well call it "une vraie perle pour les jardins." It is one of the most exquisitely beautiful little things imaginable. A diminutive stem, a few inches high, with a pair of broad plaited leaves, bears one solitary flower as large as a pigeon’s egg, most curiously painted with rich deep purple upon a pure white ground. This plant has been occasionally received from Russia in a living state, but no English gardener has managed even to keep it alive. Mr. Van Houtte does not say how he proceeded; but since it is clearly cultivable, it will be easy for those who have friends in Canada or at Moscow, to procure supplies with which further experiments may be tried. We can only say that it grows in morasses and bogs.—See Flore des Serres, t. 573.


C. trisaccata, Griffith (Itinerary notes, p. 72); pseudobulbis elongatis, foliis membranaceis obovato-lanceolatis 5-nerviis, racemis recurvantibus, bracteis latis ovatis obtusis cucullatis sterilibus carnosis floriferis minoribus membranaceis, floribus conniventi-clusis basi trisaccatis, petalis linearibus, labelli apice 3-lobi lamellis 2 carnosis flexuosis perax in lacinis subserrulatis rotundatis minutè ciliatis lateralibus rotundatis intermedii nanà bilobà basi dilatatà.

This plant was purchased last February, at one of Stevens’s sales, by M. Pescatore, in whose fine collection it has lately flowered. M. Luddeman states the pseudo-bulbs to be dilated at the base, much lengthened and narrowed towards the point where they are quadrangular; the leaves to be lanceolate, pointed, and 5 ribbed; the flowers to be arranged 6-8 in nodding racemes, distichous, scarcely expanding except at the point, pure white with the end of the lip sulphur-yellow. This quite agrees with Griffith’s statement; that botanist who found it at Mamloo, in woods, in the Khasijah hills, describes it thus:—“Pseudobulbis obovato-clavatis ampuellaceis; foliis plicatis repandis; racemis basilaribus a medio pendulis, partis sterilis bracteis carnosis adpressis florescentia concavisimis submembranaceis; pedicellis ovarium excedentibus; floribus amplà longitudivne conniventi-clusis basi trisaccatis albis; labelli lobo medio cristisq. lutescentibus.”