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SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1890.

SUTTON'S IMPROVED QUEEN ORANGE.—The earliest of all Oranges. Born in July or August it is said to develop during the Autumn very mild and delicate in flavour. Price of seed 1s. 6d. per packet, post-free.

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FOR SALE, Four Specimen CAMELLIAS, White and Red, 6 feet high, in tubs; also Two Large \( \text{MYRTLE PLANTS, 6 feet through, all in fine condition, and only sold in consequence of the owner removing to a house where there is no accommodation for them. Price } 27 \text{ 10s. 6d., 17s. 6d.} \). Apply, GARDENHURST, West Lodge, Henley Heath, Kent.


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THOMSON'S IMPROVED VINE and PLANT CATALOGUE.—The valuable Manual is made up only by us. Every page and each name on it. To be had at all Nursery and Seedsmen, and direct from us. 1s. 6d., 2s. and 10s. per dozen. London Agent—ST. GEORGE 10, Victoria Road, Putney. WM. THOMSON and SONS, Clapham, Lambeth, N.B.
Netherby has been by the modern arts of forestry and arboriculture. Several great planters have resided here, from the Br. Graham who planted the oldest woods to the late baronet.

The Woods.

But the greatest planter and improver was the famous statesman, Sir James Graham, who purchased the property of Cumberland, has held the same place that Holkham does in Norfolk. The story would be too long to tell. It commenced before Sir James succeeded to the title and estates, when he resided at Crofthead, where Mr. Suckling, the present wood manager, pointed with just pride to a noble, spreading Turkey Oak, planted seventy years ago, at the birth of Sir Frederick Graham. It must suffice to say of the improvements that were made under Sir James Graham, that while he improved the bush, the estate, it was let chiefly—save the limited woodlands—to a race of crofters, who were wretched farmers, lazy by day and only active at night when they sniffed game, netted salmon, and smuggled goods over the border. This state of things Sir James reformed by wise measures, such as Sir John Sinclair adopted at Caithness when he reformed his estate under very similar conditions, enlarging the holdings, and introducing scientific farming; a great advantage to the late Mr. Baty, who died in office here as wood manager, showed by statistics that the planting of woods on the moors and other lands had produced a considerable revenue, while the profit on the expenditure had been very satisfactory. There are now about 3500 acres of plantations, and 30 acres are planted annually and above the quantity which is every year cleared and disposed of. Timber pays better than any other crop.

The silver fir is now the most largely planted tree, and Scotch Fir, Spruce, and Silver Fir on the moors and stony land, and in stiffer soil, Oak and Ash. The Beech grows well on the hard, rocky soil which abounds here, and that tree forms a great ornament in some parts of the park and home domain. There is a magnificent specimen—a noble, wide-spreading Beech—on the lawn, on the north-east front of the house; and in the surrounding grounds of Mr. Graham, there is a magnificent beech, a giant such as one willingly pays respect to—a grand Silver Fir. We hear of trees having been worshipped, and of deities moving in their branches in India, when all the neighbourhood came out to witness the miracle of the tree bending its tip. I am sure no Fig tree in India can be more worthy of a deity than this giant Silver Fir. It has never known a pruning-hook, nor the destructive wind and lightning, and it is, therefore, well feathered with side branches. The girth at 5 feet is about 14 feet, and the height not less probably than 30 yards. The Silver Fir cannot endure water at the root, and it likes a little more sand-free prevalence, and drainage is well secured as at Inverary, where it grows pre-eminent well in the policies of the Duke of Argyll, each tree a tower, and thousands of the trees of different shape and hill side clumps, with ten or twelve loads of timber in each. Hundreds of acres of woods with green drives through them, surround the charming sylvan spot, where the Graham of Netherby have reared their roof tree, and the garden, of which Mr. Graham is the present head, is chiefly electrifying the ‘pleasure in the pathless woods,’ which Byron describes, a pleasure which to my mind is much enhanced after a shower, when they are well peopled with scents of honeysuckle and sweet aires and many pheasants elude the scene, and blackbirds and thrushes sing, and rabbits hop quickly across the drives to hide their upturned ‘scatches’ in the brushtwood. We did not meet with a squirrel, and perhaps the heads of little graceful birds, with their ample tails, and their impudence, beyond that of any other quadruped, prefer a sunny rather than a showery day for making their excursions; or, perhaps, the gamekeepers have done with them what the Spanish patriot said on his death bed he had done with his enemies when he was told to forgive them before dying: ‘Haven’t got any,’ he replied, ‘shot them all!’ I have spent many a delightful day with gamekeepers and birds shot more than one of them in the galleries, therefore I respect them. But why will they be so unnecessarily bloodthirsty? Why do they stick up traps for owls in all directions? Why, Sir? For profit? By night with the young pheasants are safe in their coops. As night birds, they destroy thousands of mice and other vermin, and do a vast amount of good.

The Pleasure Grounds.

The 30 or 40 acres of kept grounds and shambles around the house are large enough for their native beauty without any great display of exotic shrubs. They are well managed, and the Rhododendrons, which abound here, are kept well pegged down, so as to cover the ground. The wild Heathcith is a feature of the place, many acres of it blossoming gloriously in the season. There are miles of delightful walks, sometimes by the steep sides of a burn which has cut its way deep through the sandstone- rock, other parts of the several woods—so broad—from clay to stone—on the surface. A remarkably fine Ash, with tall trunk containing much timber, denotes a good soil, and perhaps clay, on that spot, whilst the numerous Beeches bespeak the presence of a great abundance of brown earth, and show the trunks and branches of the trees, tells of a moist atmosphere, and a climate favourable to timber.

Following the burn, past a summer-house on the bank, then a bit of sand and on to a ruin, a wooden bridge high above the stream, we reached the spot where flows a waterfall into the Esk, turbid and tumbling wildly after rain, and smooth and bright as crystal in fine weather. Three birds follow us along the burn, and as we turn off the corner, it being quite under the clearing tree, I was not sure about this birch, but a young man who knew here for his knowledge of birds and skill in stuffing them—the naturalist of the estate—was feeding the pheasants in the wet grass of a wood and picking up a partridge. His knowledge and skill is, especially in the north of Scotland, and said that judging from my description, without having seen it, it would be the lesser whitethroat, which frequent the burn and the points of the park near the Netherby, near the castle. Following the burn by a path high above the river, we shortly crossed its stream by a narrow suspension-bridge that sagged under us as we went over, and looking into the church of the parish of Kirk Andrews, we entered the nearest way to the Crofthead. The parish just named is 25 miles long, and the people can hardly all attend the little church; they come mostly to be buried, however, and, living or dead, the bridge shortens the distance, and was erected for that purpose. Sir James Graham rests with his ancestors in Arthurhead Church, beautifully placed on a point of land close to Longtown, the manse of the church being a corruption apparently of Arthur’s Head.

The Gardens.

The kitchen gardens reward inspection. I looked with interest on two old Myrtles planted seventy years ago and still in good condition. There are three grapevines, big house, one 50 feet long, with rafters of 27 feet, filled with Black Hamburgs to be ripe September 1, when the grapes are good for showing, and when the way is popular here, is always very good. Three Peach-houses will presently yield abundance of 8 and 9-ounce fruit, and one such Peach per foot is a satisfactory crop.

The house was planted by Sir Frederick Graham thirty years ago, in ground formerly a kitchen garden. It is rather a wet site, with clay sub-soil, thoroughly drained 3-5 feet deep; but none of the drains now run, as the soil is kept dry by the trees. At the planting of the peatmoss, which is somewhat obscured by surrounding timber, the best specimens were obtained, and most of them are growing well. They form a great and interesting walk, and one could wish that objects of so much beauty were rather more widely scattered, on the Dropmore plan, and that space were afforded to admire them singly and separately. The Wellingtonia grows well here. It is, of course, untouched by the severest winter. This tree appears to thrive in a great variety of soils. One may see it growing without loss of shape or foliage in dry sandy land, while here it flourishes in a wet and covered with rank rich foliage. Abies Alpiniana, from the Pacific coast, is a fit companion for the last, being as hardy, and, I thought, as handsome, for it looked its best at Netherby—lovely in its early summer foliage, sprinkled all over with light green young shoots. A grands is here in all its grace and glory, 70 feet high, or almost already half the height that it attains in Vancouver’s Island, or in the Fraser A. nobilis, too, has reached, perhaps, a fourth of the height of 200 or 300 feet that Mr. Douglas assigns to it in the same region. That other giant of the forests of the West discovered by the same botanist, the Douglas fir, is not presented at Specimen at Scome. It is a good characteristic of the Douglas Fir, noticeable in one of the specimens here, that when its top by accident it soon makes another, which is not the case with all the Conifers. The Silver Firs in this collection have evidently found a favourable site. Abies Lioviana is another of the tribe, making itself quite at home.

New or Noteworthy Plants.

CYPRIEPIUM HOOKEI (Robb. J.) var. VOLONTANUM, s. mer. This attractive Cypriepium is a recent Borzech introduction, known in gardens as C. Volontanum, and described, if correctly, as a distinct variety of C. Hookeri. The leaves are proportionally narrower than in the typical form, the petals broader and more obtuse, the lip a little constricted below the horizontal mouth, and the staminode absent. In other respects, it is quite like typical C. Hookeri. The petals are 1 inch broad, bright purple at the apex, and much spotted with the same colour below, the lip 10 lines in length; in other differences, though slight, may perhaps serve to distinguish it from a horticultural point of view. It has appeared both with Messrs. Hugh Low & Co. of Claptoe, and with Messrs. F. Sanders & Co. of St. Albans. The above description was drawn from a plant flowered by the former, who have presented to Kew a wild dried flower. The latter exhibited a plant at the recent Temple show, when it received an Award of Merit.

ARTHRO C JANSSENI, legh. nat. 30.) The species of Arthrodes are very difficult to determine, but particularly note in more than usually perplexing. It appeared in a collection of A. odoratum, Lour., imported by Burman from Muscles Hugh Low & Co., through Mr. Buxall, but is quite unlike any form of that species which I have seen. It resembles the plant quite intermediate between it and A. expansum, Hook. f., which also grows there, for which reason I think it may be a natural hybrid between the two. Compare with the edger which is brown, and less finely, the tips of the segments more rosy-purple, the edge-lides of the lip more spreading, a little more curved, and transversely barred with rosy-purple, and the front lobe twice as broad.