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Voices from the Past

Letters from Burbidge, Engleheart and others in the late 19th century.

“The Englishman of the Narcissi”

A story about Peter Barr

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**Copies of original correspondence given to The American Daffodil Society, Inc.,
by Matthew Zandbergen.**

**Mr. Zandbergen was a prominent Dutch bulb grower and friend to early
daffodil hybridizers.**

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Dublin
22.iii.86

Burbidge
Hartland Is. Offports
Dublin.

22.iii.86.

My Dear Barr

Herein I return your
col'd sketch of Ajax johnstonii
& "Achilles"

Hartland's "Ard Righ" or
"Irish King" 1886 - is his "Golden
Dragon" 1885. His N. "minor
maximus" (No 23 of his list)
is either a big form of nanus
or a form of N. lobularis

I hope you had a
good field day yesterday
(Tuesday) & saw some little

novelty among the kinds
exhibited.
I shall be glad of a flower
of any thing distinct or
curious.

Mild rains & sunshine
daily here now and
spring flowers growing
like mad!

faithfully yours
F.W. Burbidge

My Dear Barr

Herein I return your
colored sketch of Ajax
Johnstonii and "Achilles".

Hartland's "Ard Righ"
or "Irish King" 1886 is his
"Golden Dragon" 1885. His N.
"minor Maximus" (No. 23 of
his list) is either a big form of
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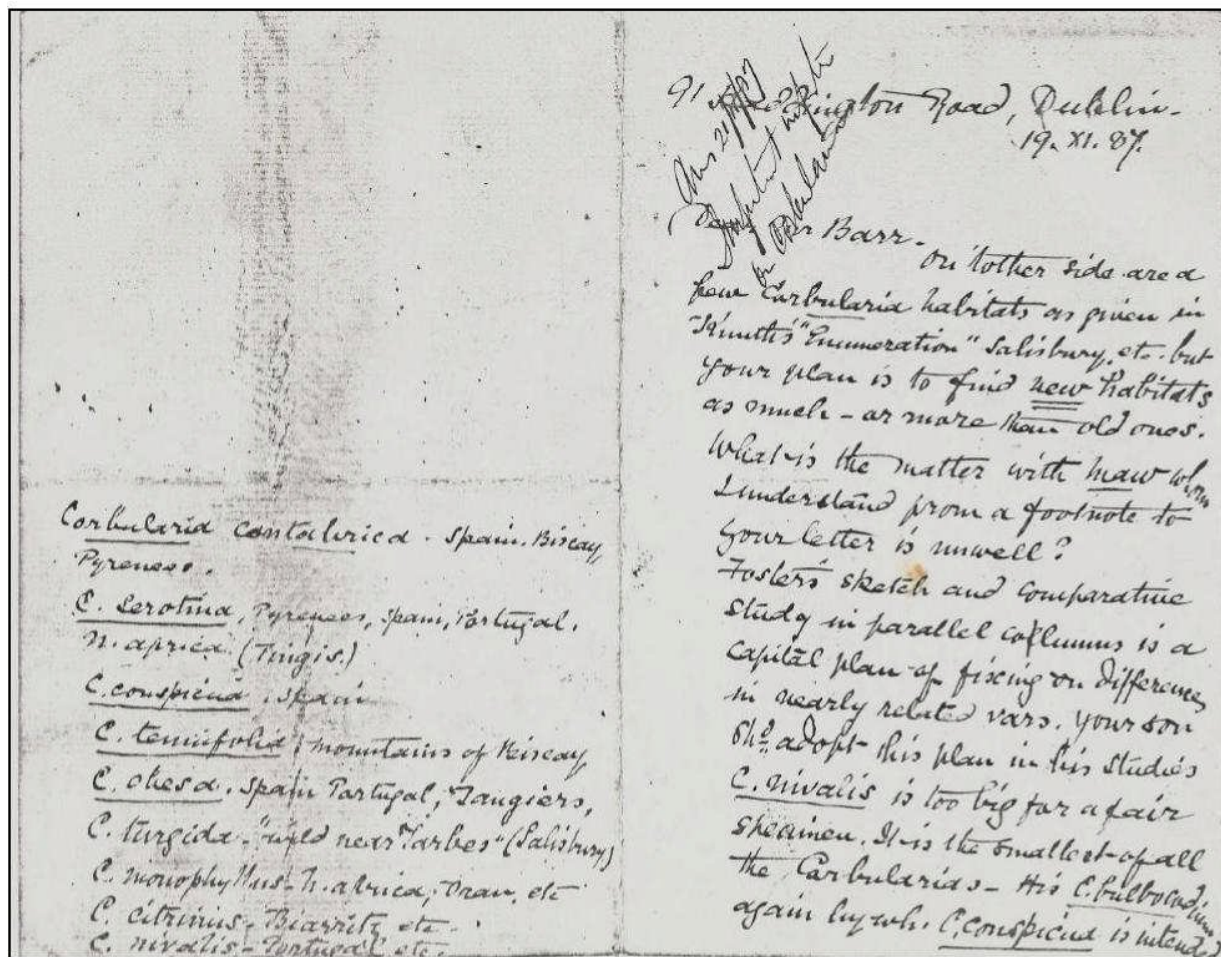
I hope you had a good
field day yesterday (Tuesday)
and saw some little novelty among the kinds exhibited.

I shall be glad of a flower of anything distinct or
curious.

Mild rains and sunshine daily here now and spring
flowers growing like mad!

Faithfully yours,
F.W. Burbidge





I presume is too small. The great point is to draw the whole series from wild specimens if possible - as cult ones are apt to be big & plethoric.

Faithfully yours
 F. W. Burbidge.

91 Haddington Road, Dublin
19.xi.87

Dear Mr. Barr.

On 'tother side are a few *Corbularia* habitats as given in Knuth's "Enumeration" Salisbury, etc., but your plan is to find new habitats as much- or more than old ones.

What is the matter with Maw whom I understand from a footnote to your letter is unwell?

Foster's sketch and comparative study in parallel columns is a capital plan of fixing on differences in nearly related vars. Your

son should adopt this plan in his studies. *C. nivalis* is too big or a fair specimen. It is the smallest of all the Corbularias. His *C. bulbocodium* again by which *C. conspicuus* is intended I presume is too small. The great point is to draw the whole series from wild specimens if possible - as cultivated ones are apt to be big and [?] blethorai

Faithfully yours,
F.W. Burbidge

Corbularia cantabrica—Spain, Biscay, Pyrenees
C. serotina—Pyrenees, Spain, Portugal, N. Africa (Tingis)
C. conspicuus—Spain
C. tenuifolia—Mountains of Biscay
C. obesa—Spain, Portugal, Tangiers
C. turgida—“wild near Tarbes” (Salisbury)
C. monophyllus—N. Africa, Oran, etc.
C. citrinus—Biarritz, etc.
C. nivalis—Portugal, etc.

91 Haddington Road, Dublin

10.1.88

2.

91 Haddington Road
Dublin

10.1.88.

2.

My Dear Mr. Barr -

Brotero's *Narcissus*
of "*Flora Lusitânica*", are

1. *N. Pseudo narcissus* = "*Narcisso Trombete*"
2. *N. bicolor* = "*N. trombete de duas cores*"
He says there is a double var. of this
? at Topes.
3. *N. minor* - on the Jerez. April & May.
4. *N. Bulbocodium* - Lisbon, Coimbra & in
South Portugal -
5. *N. reflexus* = *N. triandrus albus*
6. *N. Calathinus* = ? *N. odoratus* as he says
it is self yellow on Mont Herminii

7. *N. Tazetta* = "*Narcisso de Inverno*"

8. *N. Jonquilla* = "*Junquillo legitimo*"

There are no figures in Brotero
nor does he appear to have
recognised any varieties except
"double bicolor" after which
you should inquire, and double
jonquill.

I return Wm Threlfall's
letter many thanks. His
conclusions are pretty much
the same as mine -

Faithfully yours
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does he appear to have recognised any
varieties except "double bicolor" after
which you should inquire, and double
jonquill (sic).

I return Wm. Threlfall's letter.
Many thanks. His conclusions are pretty
much the same as mine.

Faithfully yours,
F.W. Burbidge

Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin
25.1.1888

My Dear Barr,

Your letters to hand. The drawings registered or insured will reach you on Saturday next and I am very grateful for the sight of them. How about the leaves of Mr. Buxton's hybrid Juncifolius x muticus? Are they flat (abscissus) or rushlike (juncifolius)?

No one here appears to know why the Daffodils and Corbularias of one district should be gold yellow and in another district sulphur yellow. It is as unexplainable as that of a red and a white rose budded on the same stock and fed by the same roots, but the foliage of each variety seem to vary in their chemistry. Hence [?] one with white and one with red blooms.

Mr. A.W. Tait sent me two forms of *N. cyclamineus* per post today, one having semi double flowers, the cup having two or three of its anthers changed into petals.

Kindly tell me what is the best map of the Narcissus district of Europe? Or of Spain and Portugal? Also its or their total cost. Maw ought to be a capital authority on maps, compass, etc., etc. Is his health restored? Mr. Tait promises me plants by steamer via Liverpool, the handiest way or route for him and I say if he addresses to me in

Dublin care of "Slohe Parcel Express Co. Liverpool" they would bring them on to me? Is there any better or cheaper way than this?

Trinity College Botanical Gardens
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I quite agree with you that the bulk of Narcissus are existent as wild species or varieties, or hybrids somewhere in Western Europe. Of course early gardeners may have reared hybrids and seedling variations as John Evelyn Hill in his "Eden" and Miller recommend, but these die out so quickly if unattended and as a proof of this being so I know of no hybrid existing naturalised in Europe except in its original location or habitat. You will mark down every species and variety you find on a good map of course and add altitude and aspect (by the compass) as I told you in the primer I sent some time ago.

I wish I was a rich man. I would take you to Portugal in my yacht and land you on the coast near your proposed raids, etc. I and my wife intend going to Holland in April (end of) if possible to see the bulbs and get a rest for a week or so.

Buxton's juncifolius x abscissus hybrid is curious and I am anxious to know what its leaves are like. If you knew (Crewe H. Harpur) send me 10 lines on him along with Maw with whom he went to Spain.

Faithfully yours, F.W. Burbidge

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Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin
25-1-88

Trinity College Bot. Gardens
Ball's Bridge
Dublin
25-1-88:

Dear Mr. Tait.

Your kind & welcome
letter & box of Narcissi per
post duly to hand this morning.
I have been confined to the
house more or less for the
last two months with cold
& chest troubles, but I am
very thankful to say that
nearly all the time I have
been able to write & to draw
so that the loss in some ways
has perhaps been a pain to
my Narcissus book. Barr

big-hearted & generous as ever
has lent me his daughters'
drawings for the past two
years, 153 species & varieties
in all so that the copying
& notes on them have taken
me some time. Amongst them are
some drawings of the Oporto
hybrids by Mrs. Tait, and
the little sketch of N. triandrus
concolor of Coimbra pleased
me much - it was like a little
sketch by Turner, at least I
thought it so. Ruskin
might not have done so.
I shall indeed be most
grateful for any species
or vars of Narcissi you
can send me either for
drawing & drying as specimens
or for roots for growing.

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letter and box of Narcissi per post
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you can send me either for drawing
and drying as specimens - or as roots
for growing.

Iris grow well here and *I. stylosa* and *I. reticulata* cyaned are now in flower, out of doors, also I have "at last" and for the first time a couple of flowers on *N. (Corbularia) monophylla* of Algeria.

<sup>...in France & I. albicaulis, among bellflowers
specimens will be very welcome. F.W.B.</sup>
 + Iris grow well here & *I. stylosa* & *I. reticulata* cyaned, are now in flower, out of doors, also I have at last & for the first time a couple of flowers on *N. (Corbularia) monophylla* of Algeria -
 Your *Nar. Tazetta* (South Portugal) white perianth & chrome or orange cup is very like but smaller than *N. Tazetta* as fig'd by Moggridge in his "Contributions to the Flora of Mentone" [plate 23.] from a specimen gathered at Palazzo Arenza on the Riviera. He figures a 7-flowered scape.
N. Tazetta papyraceus is a very variable plant and it ranges from the tiny *Nar. jasmined* of Rudbeck's rare "Campi Elysii" with flowers 5-7 on a scape this size -----> [drawing is 2-3/4 inches tall] to the large flowered *N. Tazetta papyraceus* with individual flowers nearly 2 inches in diameter.
 The *N. cyclamineus* turning double is a curious thing. I shall be very glad to get a packet (small) of *Chrys. seed* from you if so be that you saved any this year or last.
 Any Iris or Narcissus will be most welcome & any parcels via Liverpool addressed to me care of Slohe Parcel Express Co would reach me quite safely. You will not of course go to any expenses as to shipping or carriage as our people here gladly pay all such charges on contributions to their garden. Kindly tell me of any plants you would like to add to your own collection.
 Faithfully yours,
 F.W. Burbidge

Your *Nar. tazetta* (South Portugal) white perianth and chrome or orange cup is very like but smaller than *N. tazetta* as figured by Moggridge in his "Contributions to the Flora of Mentone" (plate 23) from a specimen gathered at Palazzo Arenza on the Riviera [sic]. He figures a 7-flowered scape.

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Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin
25.1.1888

Trin. Coll. Botanical Gardens
Dublin
25.1.1888.

Dear Mr Tait.

Since I wrote to you yesterday, I have examined the Semi-double form of Narcissus cyclamineus you were so kind as to send to me per post. It is very curious & interesting and I herein hope to enclose for a rough diagram of the flower, as it illustrates the first stages of doubling, and shows how both stamens and stigmas & style become changed into

into petaloid divisions. I never before met with such a perfect & beautiful example, and it is most instructive. I have also sent a copy of the diagram to our friend Mr C. Wolley Dod as he is so deeply interested in the "doubling" of the narcissi. I sh^d be glad to hear the history of the individual plant you so kindly sent to me.

1. Is it a wild plant, or was it cult^d in your garden?
 2. If cultivated did it appear by accident, or had you previously observed its tendency to "double" in its wild habitat?
 3. Is it the only Semi double var. you have seen, or is it one of a series?
- In a normal flower you will

Dear Mr. Tait:

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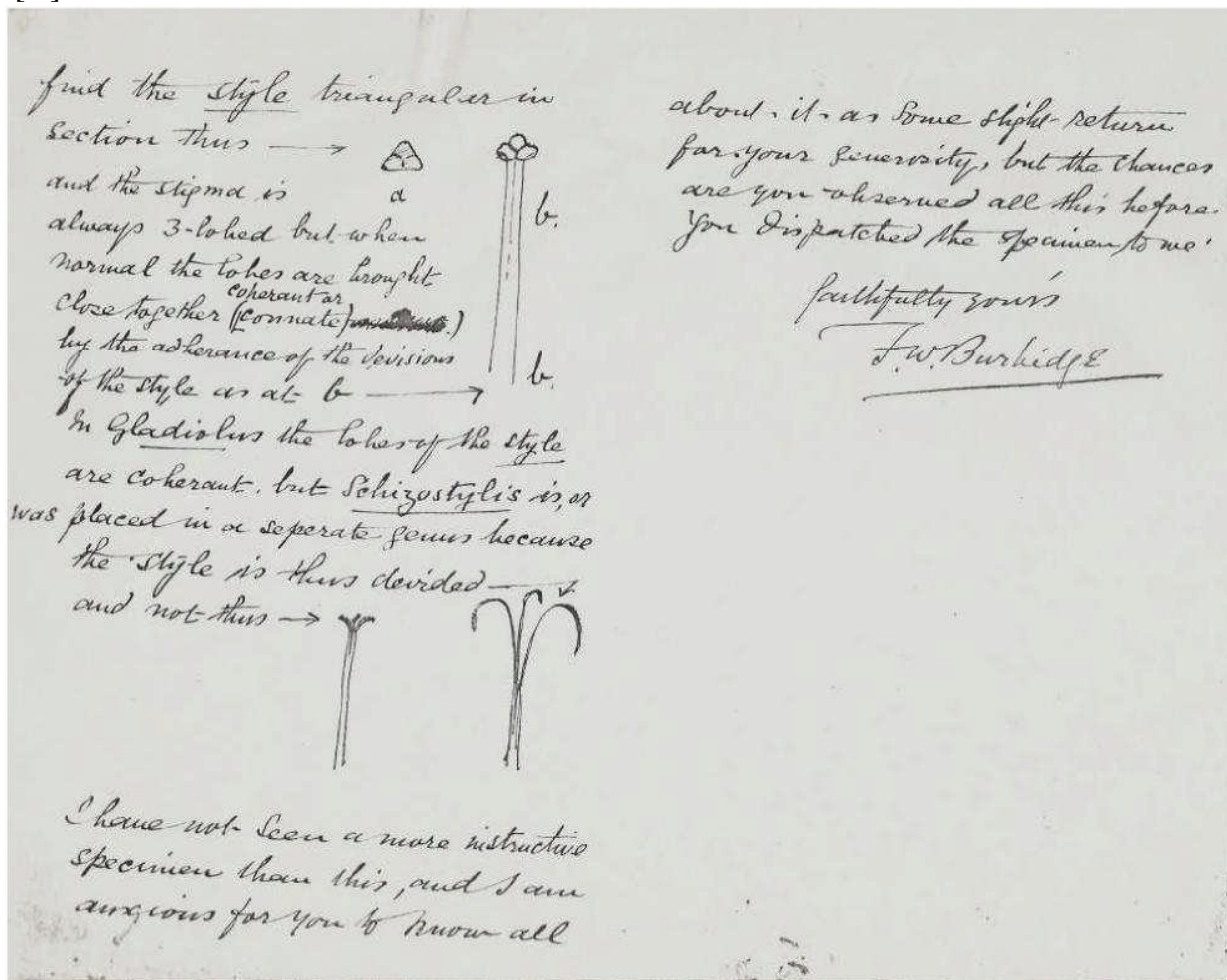
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1. Is it a wild plant, or was it cultivated in your garden?
2. If cultivated, did it appear by accident, or had you previously observed its tendency to "double" in its wild habitat?

3. Is it the only semi-double variety you have seen, or is it one of a series?

In a normal flower you will find the style triangular in section thus-----and the stigma is always 3-lobed but when normal the lobes are brought close together (coherent or connate) by the adherence of the divisions [sic] of the style as at b----->.

In *Gladiolus* the lobes of the style are coherent, but *Schizostylis* is, or was, placed in a separate [sic] genus because the style is thus divided [sic] ----->and not thus ----->



Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin
10.ii.88

Trin. Coll. Bot. Gardens
Ball's Bridge
Dublin
10.ii.88:

Dear Mr. Tait.

Your box of Narcissi,
and your letter & packages of chrys-
santhemum seeds came safe to hand this
morning, and I am sincerely &
gratefully obliged to you for
your generous kindness.

Yes! I should say, your little
Narcissus is *N. minutiflorus*,
but you query one form as
possibly *N. jonquilloides*, but
all sent represented the former
kind. Both as you know have
been figured in Willkomm's
'Illustrationes Flora Hisp.' but in
case you sh^d not have

his fascicles beside you I have
made you rough tracings of his
figures of both species, and to
his figure of *N. minutiflorus* I
have added Herbert's first-
figure from the 'Amaryllidaceae'
and your own 4-flowered
specimen & one or two of the
single ones (solitary flowered
scapes) to hand today.

I suspect that both Herbert
in 1837 - and Willkomm at a
more recent date figured wild
and perhaps starved specimens,
at any rate the plants you so
kindly forward me have
larger flowers. I should say
that *N. minutiflorus* and
N. juncifolius are very near
relations & no doubt the intermediates
between the extreme forms will
yet be found! So also in

Dear Mr. Tait:

Your box of Narcissi and your
letter and packages of
chrysanthemum seeds came safe to
hand this morning and I am sincerely
and gratefully obliged to you for
your generous kindness.

Yes! I should say your little
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query one form as possibly *N.*
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plants you so kindly forward me
have larger flowers. I should say
that *N. minutiflorus* and *N.*
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and no doubt the intermediates
between the extreme forms will yet
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Willkomm's *N. jonquilloides* which
has to me quite a *N. intermedius*
"look" about it, but I am only

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Mr. Buxton's hybrid N. juncifolius &
N. muticus, certainly has a N. odoratus
minor "look" about it, altho. quite
different.
Now I of course neither affirm
nor deny Herbert's statement as made
in his paper on "Hybridization among
vegetables" but I wish you would keep
an eye on the question raised
& from this point of view.
If ever you come across the
curious little Carragana, and
especially C. dubia as figured
by Willkomm in Ill. N. Heip.
I shall be so glad to see it, as
it may reveal something as to
the morphology of the cup or
chalice in Narcissus.
In a recent letter you mentioned
"pimping" or circumvallation as
a method of propagation. It is a
common name for N. minutiflorus as Queltia pusilla
from a specimen preserved

in the Herbarium of Sir Joseph Banks,
found by Masson between Ayemonte
and Huelha.

Barr starts to Paris today on his
journey to your sunny land. He
says he starts fully armed and
equipped this time and like the
hero of your Cervantes, he means
business & adventure.

N. cyclamineus now open here
under a sunny wall near greenhouse.
What a gem it is?

When next sending if you sh^d have
any N. triandrus blooming please send
me a flower or two. Ours are late and
I want the pollen of N. triandrus
for hybridising purposes.

With all thanks believe me

Faithfully yours
F. W. Burbidge

judging from the figure as I
never yet saw the plant. Mr.
Baker in his new arrangement
of the "Narcissus" in his
forthcoming "Handbook of
Amaryllidaceae" places N.
jonquilloides under N.
jonquilla, and I see he has
also placed N. minutiflorus
under N. juncifolius. I hope
you may soon lay hands on N.
jonquilloides. Herbert in
"Amaryll" figured N.
minutiflorus as Queltia

pusilla from a specimen
preserved in the Herbarium
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Barr starts to Paris today
on his journey to your sunny
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(clipped to above letter)

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I shall be so glad to see it, as
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chalice in *Narcissi*.
In a recent letter you mentioned
"ringing" or circumvallation as
a method of propagation. It is a

very old Chinese & Japanese dodge
also Indian & Malayan. The stem
is lacerated or barked, and a joint
of bamboo is split & bound together
around the ring or fracture & then
filled with earth. Another dodge
I saw in Borneo was the partial
breaking of a branch by bending it
upwards - i.e. erect & a lump of wet
moss is then bound around the wounded
part - roots soon form & then the branch
is cut off & planted - It is a sort of aerial
layering. If you have not seen my
"Cultivated Plants, their propagation and
improvement" I shall be glad to send
a copy for your kind acceptance.
I quite envy "Peter the Great"
his sunbath in Spain while here on
St Valentine's day we were blowing
our fingers & making ugly faces at
"Jack Frost." *N. cyclamineus*, is a brave
little chap nodding his head to everybody
& he don't seem to mind the cold a bit.
Faithfully yours
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Faithfully yours,

F.W. Burbidge

Trinity College Botanical Gardens
Dublin
5.viii.88.

My Dear Mr. Barr.

"Rip Van Winkle"
is *N. minor* fl. pl. without
a doubt - that is a double
var. of the *N. minor* of modern
gardens & not the "minor"
of Redoute, or of the Alpes
Maritimes.

I saw Brown's so called seedling
"double nanus" at the Nar.
Conference, but - I do not believe
it - is a double "nanus".

You will want a section
of Ajax to comprehend the
Sulphur col. kinds, as

distinct from the whites
& the full yellows. Then you
can pigeon hole "*St. Brigid*" *N.*
pallidus praecox vars, *N. Johnsoni*
& other Sulphur sorts like
"Exquisite" etc. therein - It will
never do to call the Sulphur
col. sorts whites. "*St. Brigid*"
is quite different to "*G. Jekyll*"
the bulb of the last var. being
most delicate & that of *St. B.* a
capital grower.

What you called *N. adarus*
minor fl. pl. is really the
double var of *N. o. rugulosus*.
and is quite distinct in colour
& leafage to *N. o. heminalis*.
N. heminalis has darker blue
green leaves & the flowers are
of a richer yellow than in any
other var of *N. adarus*.
There are certainly two forms

My Dear Mr. Barr.

"Rip van Winkle" is *N.*
minor fl. pl. without a doubt -
that is a double var. of the *N.*
minor of modern gardens and
not the "minor" of Redoute, or
of the Alpes Maritimes.

I saw Brown's so called
seedling "double nanus" at the
Nar. Conference, but I do not
believe it is a double "nanus."

You will want a section
of Ajax to comprehend the
sulphur colored kinds as distinct
from the whites and the full
yellows. Then you can pigeon
hole "*St. Brigid*" *N. pallidus*
praecox vars. *N. Johnsoni* [sic]
and other sulphur sorts like
"Exquisite" etc. therein. It will
never do to call the sulphur
colored sorts whites. "*St.*
Brigid" is quite different to "*G.*
Jekyll" the bulb of the last var.
being most delicate and that of
St. B. a capital grower.

What you called *N.*
odorus minor fl. pl. is really the
double var. of *N. o. rugulosus*
and is quite distinct in colour
and leafage to *N. o. heminalis*.
N. heminalis has darker blue
green leaves and the flowers are
of a richer yellow than in any

other var. of *N. odoratus*. There are certainly two forms of *N. o. rugulosus*, a larger and a smaller.

Miss Agnes' drawings were all sent back at your own request before you set out for Spain this year, and were acknowledged as received in King St.

The large paperwhite, bulbs of which you sent here for trial, is the larger *N. papyraceus* as figured by Moggridge in "Cont. to the Flora of Mentone" plate LXX. (You can see the book at Lovell Reeves who publishes it.) It flowers in December at Mentone. It is said to be very abundant at San Remo.

The old "totus albus" varieties are very variable, the best having flowers two inches across and 20 in a truss, and there are all variations between this and *N. T. micrantha* which bears 4-5 flowered scapes of flowers barely 1/2 inch diameter.

If this large flowered *N. papyraceus* can be obtained "true" as you sent it

to me it will be a great improvement on the Dutch stock which is good, bad, and indifferent, i.e., mixed.

I wonder you keep on at what Haworth said. He said a good deal but I defy anyone to be certain of what he meant. Baker (see Bot. Mag. [?] 7012) thinks *N. johnstonei* [sic] may be the *Oileus hexangularis* of Haworth, an opinion with which I cannot at present agree.

What novelties have you found? Any larger whites?

of *N. o. rugulosus* a larger & a smaller.

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If this large fl'd *N. papyraceus* can be obtained "true" as you sent it to me it will be a great improvement on the Dutch stock wh. is good bad & indifferent, i.e. mixed.

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F.W. Burbidge

Faithfully yours,

F.W. Burbidge

91 Haddington Road, Dublin
9.viii.88

91 Haddington Road
Dublin
9.viii.88.

Dear Mr. Barr.

Kindly let me
see Miss Agnes' drawings
of Narcissi made this spring
& I will look through them
& return promptly.

Willie or Rudolph wrote
for a specimen of a hybrid
you sent me & I returned
what I thought was it, but
they said it was not the
thing & sent it back to me.
If Miss Agnes painted it.

shall no doubt be able
to recognise the specimen
if you mark the drawing - and
I will then send it back to
you. You really must come
over to Ireland next spring
& see our "Irish Daffodils" which
flower a month earlier here
than with you near London.

"White minor" (Irish) is a nice
thing a little like Nelson's "nanus
albus" but a much stronger
grower.

You may rest assured that
N. odoratus plenus is the
double form of N. o. rugulosus.

I am now nearly sure
that all our large white Ajax
of gardens are cultivated
forms or phases of the N.
moschatius of Val d'Arnas.
wh. is extremely variable.

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You may rest
assured that N. odoratus
plenus is the double form
of N. o. rugulosus.

I am now nearly
sure that all our large
white Ajax of gardens are

cultivated forms or phases of the *N. moschatus* of Val d'Arras which is extremely variable. and becomes much taller and larger after a year or two of garden culture. *N. poeticus verbanus* [sic] (followed by division sign) is also quite growing out of character here being taller with larger flowers.

and becomes much taller & larger after a year or two of garden culture.

N. poeticus verbanus ÷ is also quite growing out of character here being taller with larger flowers! -

A batch of Dammann's mixed Italian *poeticus* I saw in flower this spring were extremely interesting & variable. Some forms ^{had} *N. p. poetarum* from Italy bloomed at Cork in March in open air.

What has become of Mr. Leo Maw?

I wrote to Dulau & Co about the narcissus book & they seemed willing

to entertain it, advising that I and Maw sh^d join our forces, but this a big man like Maw might not like to do.

You do not tell me what new narcissi you found in your travels this year! What is *N. asturicus*?

Let me have the drawings for a day or two.

Faithfully yours
F.W. Burbidge.

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The Englishman of the Narcissi
El Correo Gallego, Deario de la Manana
14 Dec 1888

Interpreted from the original in the Narcissi
The Englishman of the Narcissi.
El Correo Gallego
Deario de la Manana 14 Dec 1888

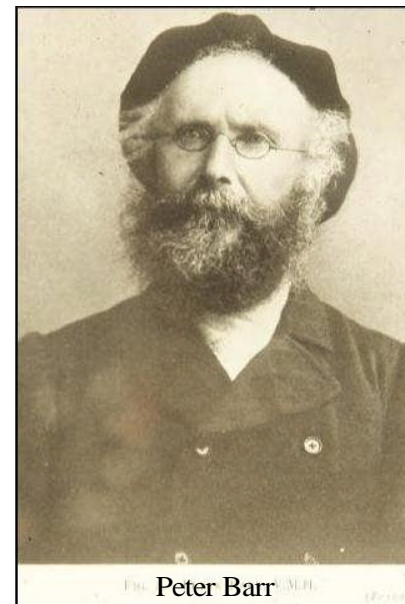
Probably some of our readers may recollect having seen during the months of April and May last, whether in this capital or whether in some other part of the Province, travelling on foot and accompanied by a servant, a knight-errant, whose strange attire attracted attention even among us, accustomed as we are to the eccentricities of dress peculiar to foreign tourists.

Very baggy knee-breeches, leggings of yellow leather and black boots adorned with great nails, a jacket after the fashion of a blouse, collarless, wide, crossed with multifarious pockets in every direction, confined by a belt, the whole of a grey tone matching the beard and hair of the owner, and a handsome and fine fur cap of the shape formerly worn by waggons and even now occasionally met with in the mountains during the winter, constituted the attire of our personage, who, to a fair stature and natural elegance, added the special attraction of a smiling countenance, and particularly that of the intelligent glances of his blue eyes, incessantly moving behind their gold rimmed spectacles. Field glasses and a multitude of pocket books, papers, and guides peeping out of his innumerable pockets, completed his outward appearance.

Probably some of our readers may recollect having seen during the months of April and May last, whether in this capital or whether in some other part of the Province—traveling on foot and accompanied by a servant—a knight errant, whose strange attire attracted attention even among us, accustomed as we are to the eccentricities of dress peculiar to foreign tourists.

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Behind him respectfully marched his companion, a servant of as vulgar an aspect as can be found anywhere, carrying



Peter Barr

rolled up under his arm the map of Asturias of the never to be forgotten Schuttz [?].

"Who are these two individuals?" asks the inquisitive reader.

The first is known in Asturias and Galicia as "the Englishman of the Narcissi;" the second is a Frenchman, a native of Gavarnie in the

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The first is known in Asturias and Galicia
as "the Englishman of the Narcissi;" the second is a
Frenchman, a native of Gavarnie in the Pyrenees,
a soi-disant interpreter, whose chief characteristic
is his knowing English hardly at all, Spanish even less,
and his own mother-tongue only so far as the bad
patois of the Landes and Western Pyrenees. So much
for the Squire, who by the bye, seemed a stupid lout,
better pleased to travel as a gentleman and get his
daily wages ~~weekly pay~~, than to remain at Gavarnie, waiting
to be employed as a guide by some one of the strangers
who come to see the natural amphitheatre formed by
its mountains, and which has made the place famous.

The Englishman's conversation justified the
favorable opinion which, in spite of his dress,
must surely have been formed by those who saw
Mr. Peter Barr, for such is his name, and he inhabits
No. 12, King Street, Covent Garden, in London.

Having once solved the only doubt which troubled
him on beginning a conversation, namely, what
language could his interlocutor understand, he

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The Englishman's conversation justified the favorable
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Garden, in London.

Having once solved the only doubt which troubled him
on beginning a conversation, namely, what language could
his interlocutor understand, he began to talk to me in his
own. Imagine to yourselves an express train, and you will
be able to form some slight idea of it. It was absolutely
impossible to follow him, and yet this was the least
fatiguing part of the business. Having once explained the
object he had in view, he began a torrent of questions, and
a pulling out of note-books, and a jotting down in this place
and in that, and requests for me to write down what he
could not understand or what he could not spell in our
language; and if by chance any matter, however out of the
way, were touched upon, he instantly copied and made
notes of it—and all this did

not prevent his returning at once to the subject of

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this did not prevent his returning at once to the subject
of paramount importance to Mr. Barr at that period,—
namely,—Narcissi!

"I leave London," he said, "I travel about for
some months. I collect information and botanical,
geological and mineralogical specimens; I divide them
among the friends who devote themselves to each of these
specialities, and after awhile, I begin again."

"And you do not take part in scientific review or
publish some work?" asked I.

"I am thinking about it and will keep you
informed," replied he.

Probably I should have forgotten the naturalist had I
not received a letter from him a few days since.
Among other things he says,—"Before leaving England
I expected to find sulphur-colored Narcissi from

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Among other things he says, "Before leaving
England I expected to find sulphur-colored Narcissi
from Bordeaux to the borders of Asturias and Galicia,
and thenceforward, following the coast line,—pale
yellow and white ones. My explorations from Oviedo to
Oporto have confirmed this expectation, as those
between the first-named place and the French frontier
had already done. I observed that the sulphur-colored
present themselves invariably on chalky soils,
disappearing on all others. On the other hand, on the
Galician granite and hard rocks in general, only pale or
white ones are to be seen. Climate cannot have produced
this distinction; as to the soil on which they
spontaneously grow, it was of the same character
throughout, namely, the yellowish clay of the upland
pastures; hence, not being able to account for the variety
of color in Narcissi by the nature of the soil, are we to
attribute it to the sub-soil?"

If in your mountain excursions you could make
observations and send me specimens, together with the
name of the place, the nature and geological formation
of the ground, you would not only do a personal service
to myself, but to science as well."

Bordeaux to the borders of Asturias and Galicia, and thenceforward, following the coast line, - pale yellow and white ones. My explorations from Oviedo to Oporto have confirmed this expectation, as those between the first-named place and the French frontier had already done. I observed that the sulphur-coloured present themselves invariably on chalky soils, disappearing on all others. On the other hand, on the Galician granite and hard rocks in general, only pale or white ones are to be seen. Climate cannot have produced this distinction; as to the soil on which they spontaneously grow, it was of the same character throughout, namely, the yellowish clay of the upland pastures; hence, not being able to account for the variety of colour in Narcissi by the nature of the soil, are we to attribute it to the sub-soil?

If in your mountain excursions you could make observations and send me specimens, together with the name of the place, the nature and geological formation of the ground, you would not only do a personal service to myself, but to science as well."

Further on he adds. - "At Busdongo the Narcissi are pale yellow, with sulphur and white or whitish petals on the hard rocks, at Villanin there are some of 'Sarminoso' colour. After leaving Oviedo I took the high road along the coast, and at Tapia I saw the last sulphur

+ This word is quite unknown to me and I cannot find it in the dictionary; can it be a misprint for 'Carminoso' - carmine tinted?

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I remember that about twelve years since, I stumbled in Oviedo upon another naturalist, a German, who came all the way from Berlin for the sole purpose of confirming or rectifying some doubtful botanical data concerning a plant described in Wilkomm's Flora as occurring at Manjoza and near the fountain of Fozaneldi. That I could understand, for an important work was in question, and I knew that in Berlin there are practical men capable of undertaking commissions of the kind. In Mr. Barr's work, however, I failed to see,—why deny the fact?—any scientific object whatsoever, and I looked upon it as a species of monomania. But I now suspect it to have a very real commercial importance, very much in keeping with the character of the sons of Albion; this idea is suggested to me by the

recollection of something I have read recently, and by an article published by the said Mr. Barr in "The Pall-Mall Gazette" of the 23rd of last month, under the title, "The Price of Orchids."

If my memory does not play me false, Narcissi have recently been brought into fashion in England by politicians who employ them as emblems of a political group or party, and who wear in the coat

buttonhole a Narcissus of a color previously agreed upon.

Hence, beyond all doubt, the necessity for procuring these flowers, and it is evident that their high price in the market is quite a sufficient motive for the English to move heaven and earth and to try to acclimatize and reproduce them in their own country. It is true that the sale of

flowers, bulbs, etc., which goes on in the capital of the United Kingdom is something enormous; Mr. Henry Stevens bears witness to the fact that millions of orchids have passed through his hands, obtaining for instance the collection of Mr. John Day of Tottenham for the sum of £10,000 (or a million reales!!). In order to procure these plants all the countries of the world are laid under contributions, especially India and S. America.

The Narcissi are to be found in a more circumscribed area, but since precisely those which are most esteemed are to be found growing wild in Asturias and Galicia, and since we have no lack of persons who are fond of cultivating and propagating flowers, we recommend the subject to them; they may find it to their advantage to communicate with Mr. Barr, and also to devote a few days in April and May to gathering these flowers, being firmly persuaded that their time would not be thrown away.

Thus is it that the ancient naturalists, those true martyrs to science, who, at the cost of infinite suffering,—many perishing in the quest—opened out new horizons to the Geographical botany of the world with no other stimulus than glory,—often in scant measure,—have come to be succeeded by these others more in harmony with our modern life. And while those enriched herbaries difficult to study and useful only to a limited number of persons, these, by encouraging the cultivation of plants, (which in every latitude constitute the best ornament of the earth,) in places where they may

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But I now suspect it to have a very real commercial importance, very much in keeping with the character of the sons of Albion; this idea is suggested to me by the recollection of something I have read recently, and by an article published by the said Mr. Barr in "The Pall Mall Gazette" of the 23^d of last month, under the title—"The Price of Orchids."

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best be admired, realize rich profits, but we cannot doubt that they likewise render a service to humanity, by teaching it more and more to know and admire the works of the Creator.

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Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin
28.1.1890

Trin. Coll. Bot. Gardens
(Dublin)
28.1.1890:

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks
for your letter of the 19th
duly rec^d & for the specimen
flowers of a semi-double var.
of *N. tazetta*, something like
"Double Roman" (*N. cyprius* fl. pl.
of Haworth as fig^d (single form)
in Sweets H. Gard. II series.
It is most interesting to me
as being in all probability
a wild double form & I sh^d
like one bulb at the, to you

most convenient season.
I was glad to see your writing
for I had thought several times
about you during this late
dispute & wondered if you
were inconvenienced thereby
as I am afraid all English
residents in Portugal have
been more or less. I
hope things are better now
& that all may be settled
in an amicable manner
or losses to innocent individuals
will be deplorable.

Our friend "Peter the Great" has
at last removed from Tooting
to Long Ditton near Hampton
Court--alluvial soil on a
dry & warm gravelly bottom.

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Our friend "Peter the
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Tooting to Long Ditton near
Hampton Court--alluvial soil on
a dry and warm gravelly bottom,

whereon he hopes to grow
his bulbs & delicate stock
better than formerly.

This is the earliest season
I ever remember. *N. (Ajax) minimus* open on New Year's
day in open air & now *N. cyclamineus*, *N. Bulbocodium*
(of Portugal) *N. pallidus praecox*
& *N. Regina Margherita*, are in
bloom also.

There is to be a four day show
& Conference on *Narcissi*
held by R.H.S. at Chiswick
on April 15, 16, 17, & 18th
next & most of us are down
for papers but I am quite
disappointed not to see
your name, as your papers

from the native habitats of so
many kinds are singularly
interesting & I hope you will
send a few notes at least
on that occasion.

All our bulbs of "Double Roman"
this year are cup double only
v. my plate XXXIII, and not
double in cup & perianth also
as in pl. XXXIV. and I
think the same bulbs may vary
in this manner from year
to year. The "old masters" figure
both phases as if they were
different plants. Does the *Merodon*
or *Narcissus Fly* "trouble" your
cult' bulbs in Oporto? It is bad
here in hot summers.

With many thanks
Faithfully yours
F.W. Burbidge

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Faithfully yours,

F.W. Burbidge

Appleshaw
Andover
September 19, 1891

Ans 20/9/91

Appleshaw.
Andover.
Sept. 19. 91.

Dear Mr Barr,

Thanks for the bulbs,
which shall be duly planted as you
direct, & progress shall be reported -

I will not trouble you with a
long letter, but will call your attention
only to one point — as to the
origin of N. Leedsi.

In your letter you say "it is doubtful
whether Leeds & Backhouse had
N. montanus" There is no doubt

whatever that Leeds both had the
plant and worked with it -

In your catalogue you remark that
N. Leedsi elegans is figured in
"Gardener's Magazine of Botany" — now
Leeds in his notes, which were printed
with the figure, expressly states that
this flower came from N. ^{montanus} ~~leedsii~~
crossed with pollen of N. p. angustifolius.
And Leeds says in the same notes
that he has "3 crops from N. montanus
crossed with both long & short-tubed
kinds."

He also says he has seedlings from

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expressly states that
this flower came from

N. bicolor crossed with N. montanus.
He calls N. montanus "Tros
poculiformis" but there is no doubt
but what he means montanus -
indeed he sometimes calls it montanus.

I wonder you have not
noticed the curious similarity in
bulb between Leedsi type and
montanus - the bulb is peculiar in
both cases & the likeness unmistakable.

When I show you my flower
from ornatus x montanus you will
see in a moment it is Leedsi -

Yr. huf. G. W. Engleheart
over

My seedling like Stella came in
a batch of seedlings labelled &
recorded as

"Early Ajax x poeticus"

In my first year or two I did
not take such accurate trouble as
I do now, but sowed seed more
in mixed lots, & therefore cannot
tell you the precise Ajax used. But
the poeticus must have been
angustifol: or ornatus - I never
work with angustifol: now, but
did at first. I dare say you
will kindly let them
send off the enclosed small
order. I have been trying
for a month to get
a holiday & can't.

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★★★

10.i.94

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My Dear Mr. Tait:

Many thanks for the specimens you so kindly sent me on the 3rd of Jan^y which came quite safely and fresh as when they left you. They look very like *N. papyraceus*, and are not *N. canariensis* of Herbert.

If you can send me *N. dubius*, in flower at any time I shall be glad to have a specimen.

Our friend Barr

kindly sent me bulbs from near Nismes, but I cannot induce them to flower. It grows thereabouts on hills along with *N. juncifolius*, which it indeed somewhat resembles in stature & tenacity. Herbert never saw this plant. True I feel sure.

N. viridiflorus, is another narcissus that defies my attempts at culture. True I have flowered collected bulbs, but the flowers were inside them when they left their home in Spain. Have you in your vineyards any variety or forms of vines with highly coloured foliage? I am trying to

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vineyards any variety or forms of vines with highly coloured foliage? I am trying to get up stock of a few of the best coloured leaved

vines for ornament in our park here around the College which our authorities have recently handed over to my care.

Get up stock of a few
of the best coloured leaved
vines for ornament in our
Park here around the College
which our authorities have
recently handed over to my
care.



Ever since I saw the vines in Italy
draping & festooning dwarfed olives
& maples like the above sketch,
I have felt how beautiful
they would be grown for
ornament alone in our climate
where even Miller's Burgundy
only ripens once in ten years
or so.

Vilmorin tells me there are five
or six vines that colour well in
the French vineyards, including one
— Tinturier which I think you
sent to Chiswick R.H.S. gardens ^{to share}
If you have cuttings or eyes
of any vigorous kinds that colour
well I should be glad of them.
We could starve them in old
lime rubble & so get them
to colour well, perhaps, in this
dull climate.

We are all going wild here now
over *Vitis Coignetiae* (= *V. rugosa*
= *V. amurensis*.) a hardy Japanese
vine that colours well, said to be
a form of *V. Labrusca*.
are any of the American cults
vars. of native vines any use to
you in Portugal either as stocks
for grafting *V. vinifera* upon, or as
fruiting vines? Wishing you health
& prosperity during 1894.
Faithfully yours F.W. Burbidge.

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Faithfully yours,
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★★★
6.ii.05

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Dear Mr Barr.

Kindly excuse
my not having replied to
yours of Jan. 25th before
this date -

I am very glad to hear
you are off to Majorca
etc. in May: It is a
little late for the rush
of spring bulbs & things
but - better late than
never. - Miss Fanny Geoghegan
who brought home the

True Hell: lividus, Told
me that a Duc de — ?
is boss of Majorca and
he & his people know
the flora well.
"Man wants but little here
below" but the best of
Everything, is quite good
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I do not know what
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In any case see the
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In any case see the
Livid Hellebore at home, and tell
us of its natural conditions, etc.

Sancho Panza in Don
Quixote says "One thing is
looked for, and another is found"
and so you in tracking the
Hellebore will see lots of things
no doubt. P.B. always told me
that he found the local
apothecaries knew the botany of
any district better than most
people, so go in and ask for
some triple peppermints, or
anything, and then tap them

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where there's a will
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patriot said to
the cook!

Joking apart I hope
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Portuguese Narcissi

May 20, 1931

Portuguese Narcissi
107 Rua do Molhe
Carcinosa
Oporto. Portugal
May 20th 1931
Dear Mr. Barr
I am very glad to hear that you are so much better, your recovery is evidently only a question of time & fortunately you have the summer before you. I never heard of narcissus Miss Hutcheson, as you know there was one called Mrs. Buchanan but I do not know its parentage. The Baron's letters from your father & others regarding narcissus were sent to your firm I believe by the Baroneza. I used to have some very good *pulchellus* bulbs which were sent to the Baron by Mr. Wolley Dod, the cup was pale cream - constricted at the edge - & the long perianth segments were deep primrose. They did not increase & they finally died of old age & a wet summer. *Pulchellus* is evidently rare in this

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Yours sincerely,
Rosalie S. Vivian

Narcissus

List from
Flora de Portugal
by Antonio Xavier Pereira Coutinho.

Bulbocodium & nivalis. Also x pseudo N. & x triandrus
Cyclamineus
Gaditanus
Intermedius
Jonquilla
Biflorus
Odorus
Tazetta
" Papyraceus
" Panizzianus
Intermedius
Triandrus
Reflexus
Serotinus
Rupicola
Scaberulus
Minutiflorus.

He does not mention pulchellus or concolor.

Narcissus

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He does not mention *pulchellus* or *concolor*.

A Letter to Peter R. Barr from Rev. George Engleheart,

Engleheart's Hybridizing
March 1st 1933.
LITTLE CLARENDON,
DINTON,
SALISBURY.

Dear Mr Barr.

I am sending Simmonds a memorandum, on a separate sheet, of the spelling of Campenelle, so that he can hand it to Chittenden and the Council. Proper names in Italian can end in -ella or -elli, but cannot end in -elle.

Your acct. of my daff. raising is pretty correct. I went to Appleshaw in 1881, having up to then lived in a small house with no garden in Leicester. For the first few years I worked at re-making the hybrids made by Herbert and existing, a few wild, in the Leeds, Backhouse and Nelson collections acquired by your father. When I showed a few flowers at R.H.S., and they attracted attention, I turned to the raising of garden flowers. I had also raised many interesting and pretty things by various crosses between the *Corbularias*, *triandrus*, *juncifolius* etc., but these proved "cold house" plants and too troublesome to keep. You may remember, for instance, that I reproduced *triandrus pulchellus* exactly by a cross *juncifolius* x *triandrus*.

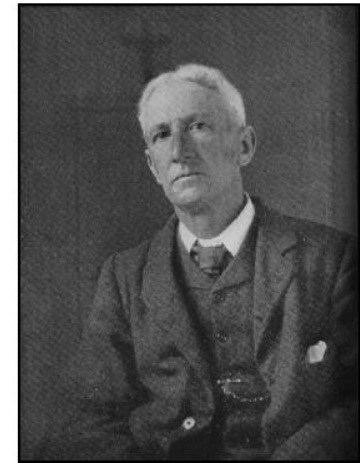
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some reds. W. Ware bought most of these for early market bloom, but they perished by eelworm after his death. The poets were my chief interest: I worked all available forms into my strain--all that your father had, some red-eyed forms from the Pyrenees, collected and given me by

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I wish I had worked more with *Maximus* - I had several as good as or better than *Magnificence*, and Leak had from me one he calls *Forerunner*, earlier still. I lost many in the devastating first years of eelworm. Of recent years, with comparatively few plants, I have concentrated on whites and the pink coloring. Perhaps *Easter Morn*, which Secrett had from me, is the best example, but I should have some of advanced pink coloring in my unflowered seedlings.

I cannot say whether Leeds & Backhouse made 2nd generation crosses, but they had time to make them. I have always supposed that they (or one of them) obtained Herbert's plants, but I failed in my hunt to ascertain what became of Herbert's material.

I raised the first garden hybrid of *triandrus*, *Snowdrop*, which still exists with Mr. J. C. Williams, untouched where it was planted some 35 years ago. And I suppose my *Buttercup* was the first garden hybrid of *jonquil*.

Mr. P. D. Williams has had a good deal of this information from me: he also is writing for the new Year Book.

Yrs sincerely
George Engleheart.

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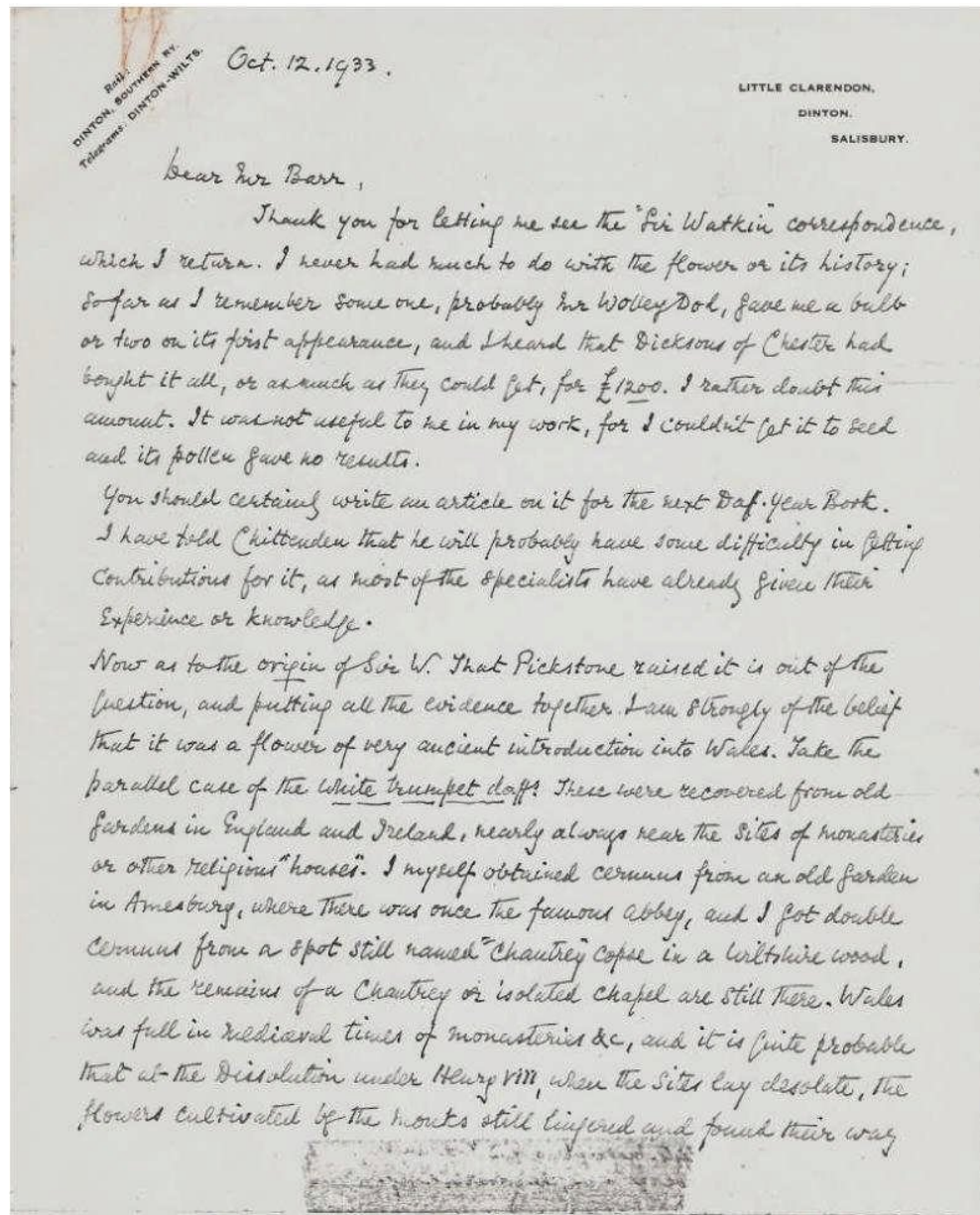
October 12, 1933

Dear Mr. Barr:

Thank you for letting me see the "Sir Watkin" correspondence which I return. I never had much to do with the flower or its history; so far as I remember, someone, probably Mr. Wolley Dod, gave me a bulb or two on its first appearance, and I heard that Dicksons of Chester had bought it all, or as much as they could get, for 1200. I rather doubt this amount. It was not useful to me in my work, for I couldn't get it to seed and its pollen gave no results.

You should certainly write an article on it for the next Daffodil Year Book. I have told Chittenden that he will probably have some difficulty in getting contributions for it, as most of the specialists have already given their experience or knowledge.

Now as to the origin of Sir W. That Pickstone raised it is out of the question, and putting all the evidence together I am strongly of the belief that it was a flower of very ancient introduction into Wales. Take the parallel case of the white trumpet daffodils. These were recovered from old gardens in England and Ireland, nearly always near the sites of monasteries or other religious "houses." I myself obtained cernuus from an old garden in Amesbury, where there was once the famous abbey, and I got double cernuus from a spot still named "Chantry Copse" in a Wiltshire wood, and the remains of a Chantry or isolated chapel are still there. Wales was full in medieval times of monasteries etc., and it is quite probable that at the Dissolution under Henry VIII, when the sites lay desolate, the flowers cultivated by the monks still lingered and found their way into cottage and other gardens. The monks cultivated them chiefly for their medicinal uses, real or supposed, and you probably have heard that the Chartreuse liqueur is said to contain daffodil juices. Anyhow I am quite prepared to believe that nearly all the daffodils found in England, Wales, or Ireland by the earliest writers such as



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We have to remember that no daffodil except *N. pseudonarc.*, the Lent lily, is truly wild in Britain; all others were imported, first (most probably) by the religious orders, then from Holland when interest in them as garden flowers began.

It has been held by some that the Leek, the emblem of Wales, was really a daffodil, and it is much more probable that the emblem, as that of other countries, was a flower rather than a kind of "stinking" onion!

P.S. I had *Maximus* from Wolley Dod, from Trinity Coll. Dublin and from Hartland. After some seasons with me all looked much alike. I crossed it with the early flowering kinds, *Spurium*, *H. Irving* &c. that I had from your father's lists. *Magnificence* and *Forerunner* came out of this, and I still have one here, fine colour & early.

Yours sincerely

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