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MDCXXI.
LV. On the Cultivation of Rare Plants, especially such as have been introduced since the Death of Mr. Philip Miller.

By Richard Antony Salisbury, Esq. P. R. S. &c

Read January 6, February 4, and March 3, 1812.

Amongst the various branches of Horticulture, that of managing Rare Plants, though perhaps really the least important, is one of the most difficult; and the avidity with which they are collected, as well as the permanent light which they afford, have advanced the rank of a skilful botanic gardener, in some families, higher than that of any other servant. Many new plants being as yet introduced, respecting the culture of which no particular directions have yet been published, I very willingly communicate to this Society what little knowledge I have gained on the subject.

"If my remarks eventually prove useful to any one, let his thanks flow in a full stream towards the royal garden at Kew; which has been the grand source of horticultural improvement in this country, since the death of Mr. Philip Miller. How would that Prince of Gardeners, as he was emphatically called by foreigners, have been gratified to have joined us in our excursion last year, when we saw the whole of that vast collection, in the various quarters of the Grass, Physic, Kitchen, Fruit, Flower, and Pleasure ground, whether under extensive ranges of glass, or exposed to the open air, in the neatest order, and healthiest condition; and when we..."
not hesitate to separate it: but that part is not divided to the base even on its inner side, as Mr. BROWN describes it, being quite entire there.

HYMENOCALLIS LITTORALIS. MSS. Pancratium Littorale.

The fruit of this genus differs exceedingly from that of Pancratium, in having only two seeds in each cell, which swell to a considerable size, like bulbs, and I have named it hymenocallis, from the beautiful membrane which connects the filaments. By a manuscript note of Dr. Richardson’s, his copy of Trew’s Planta Selecta, it appears that this species was cultivated at North Bierly in 1742; and that THOMAS HODGSON, who had worked as a labourer in his garden, but was pressed for a sailor, and sent home wounded on the famous siege of Carthagena, brought back roots with him. It grows wild there most abundantly, in the sandy soils; and if indulged with a large pot in our stoves, produces a truly magnificent bunch of flowers.


I cultivated this species at Mill Hill with great success, in a pot of light rich earth, under a common hot-bed frame. It grows wild in the swamps of South Carolina, and was introduced in 1800 by Mr. Fraser, of whom I purchased it.

which being given to my friends, it is now pretty common; though it produces offsets very slowly. The figure in the Botanical Magazine gives a very just representation of its size and beauty, when cultivated, as it ought to be, in a large pot of rich earth kept pretty moist.

Hymenocalis Tubiflora. MSS.

This species thrives with the same treatment as the last, and grows wild in Guiana, from whence it was introduced by the captors of a French vessel, of whom his Majesty purchased it, in 1803. The leaves are so much pointed at the top as to be almost cuspidated, and the tube of the corolla is exceedingly long, with a very short crown.


I think this beautiful genus might be naturalized in our sandy shores; and a bulb planted by me in the Isle of Wight, among Chelidonium corniculatum, and Eryngium Maritimum, with which I saw it growing wild below Montpellier, has now been thriving for two years: if, therefore, any one who "comes unto those yellow sands" discovers the fair exotic, I beseech him to spare and treat it with as much delicacy as Ferdinand, mindful of Prospero's injunction, did Miranda. Though the leaves continue vegetating through winter, it would perhaps succeed in a more inland situation, by being planted deep in sandy soil, and occasionally sprinkled...
with salt water; for it grows so near the sea, as to be covered with spray in every storm.


By the late Mr. Dacander’s suggestion, which I then dared not to oppose, I joined this species to *Pancratium Maritimum*, in the second volume of the Linnean Transactions. It is however exceedingly distinct, and flowered in Mr. Woodford’s stove not long before he left Springwell. The soil sent along with it was black vegetable mould, and he believed that it came from the Island of Ceylon.


This plant grows wild abundantly in the Island of Ceylon, also near Malacca, where it ornaments the sides of the roads with its fragrant flowers, during the month of November. Here it requires the constant heat of a stove, and to be planted in light rich earth, with which treatment it ripened seeds, last October, in Dowager Lady De Clifford’s collection.


Introduced from Brasil in 1808 by Mr. Brandt, and it bears handsomely on the hills near Lima, if it is really the same plant as *Narcissus Amancaes*.


This is a difficult species to preserve, except in pure loam, and had been lost in our gardens many years, till 1782, when Messrs. Lee and Kennedy imported some hundreds of bulbs from Holland. A parcel of these, taken up when in the Cultivation of rare Plants.
flower, and planted at random in various parts of the garden at Chapel-Allerton, succeeded admirably; multiplying by offsets, as well as ripening seeds every year: but all the roots brought from thence to Mill Hill gradually decayed, just in the way I had before, year after year, observed them to go off in Messrs. Lee and Kennedy's nursery. I suspect it may be Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus of Brotero, and that the plant requires shade.


I am not able to trace the first introduction of this species, but it was cultivated by Dr. Richardson, at North Bierly, in 1712, in whose woods I gathered it with Tulipa Sylvestris, about forty years ago. It is often sent accidentally among Dutch bulbs, and will grow in any soil, though much bolder in damp loam.


This species grows wild plentifully in the mountains of L'Esperou, and is a noble plant, rarely seen in perfection near London; for it delights in a shady exposure, and deep rich loam. Two large beds of it, nevertheless, were very flourishing many years in the moist hollow of a nursery on the Kilburn road; and it used to be equally luxuriant in Mr. Curtis's botanical garden at Lambeth: but he complained to me, that it did not thrive at all when removed to Brompton. I believe that few of these alpine species will endure the drought and burning sun we often experience in June, especially when on a gravelly bottom. I have never seen them thrive so well in any garden as they did at Chapel Allerton, where the summer temperature is so cold, that Scarlet Strawberries seldom ripen before the beginning of July.


The first time I saw this plant, it was pointed out to me by Mr. Curtis, as an indigenous species, which he had just received from Dr. John Sibthorp. To Oxford I set off the next day, where I was not a little disappointed to learn, that by a mistake of the gardener's, some bulbs of it, intended for Mr. S. Solle, had been directed to Mr. Curtis, and those of our wild species, which Mr. Curtis wished to have from Noke Woods, had been sent to Mr. S. Solle. By way of consolation, however, my late excellent friend loaded me with many plants not then in my garden, and we spent a whole morning in examining Sherard's Herbarium: but no specimen of this plant was to be found, nor could he tell me any thing about it, except that when his father, who was then absent
in Lincolnshire, came to Oxford, it was called Bobart's Daffodil. This name alone is sufficient evidence, to my mind, of its having been introduced by one of the Bobarts, and probably by the younger; for it is not mentioned in the second edition of Catalogus Horti Oxoniensis published in 1658. It used to ripen seeds at Chapel Allerton, and succeeds best in damp loam. If L'Ecluse’s synonym above quoted really belongs to this species, as I suspect, it grows wild in wet meadows of Castilla La Vieja. Mr. Kerr, indeed, in the 1801st number of the Botanical Magazine, has added that to his more cautious predecessor’s synonyms of Grandiflorus; but L'Ecluse expressly says, that the flower of his plant is less, and its leaves greener, than those of our indigenous Daffodil. This synonym accordingly must be determined by some botanist resident in Castilla La Vieja, for in our gardens Grandiflorus has not only a large flower, but the most glaucous leaves of any species yet known.


For my knowledge of this species I was also indebted to Mr. Curtis, nor have I seen it anywhere except in the vicinity of London. He found it in an old garden at Lewisham, and it thrives in almost any soil that is not very dry.


No figure has yet been published of this species, which flowers after the others, rivalling, if not excelling, all its predecessors in grandeur and beauty. It is a truly alpine plant, with short broad leaves, increasing fast in any soil, especially chalky loam, with some of which still adhering, bulbs were brought into this country from Montpellier, in 1781, by Broussonet. It had then however long been in the Oxford garden, and at Londesborough, in Yorkshire, to which it was sent from Sherard’s celebrated garden at Eltham. Dr. Uvedale, one of the most eminent horticulturists of his time, gave it to Sherard, having received the roots from Magnol, in 1690, as appears by a manuscript catalogue of exotics in his garden at Enfield, chiefly bulbous plants, presented to me by my early and venerable friend, the son of Dr. Richardson. I do not think that it was introduced before that period, or known to Parkinson. Linne first mentions it in the second edition of Species Plantarum: his specimen is from the Upsal garden, and the bulbs were sent to him by Barree, a little before the death of the latter, as I was informed by Professor Gouan. The synonym of Narcissus albus calyce flavo, alter, which both Linne and Gouan misled by Jasper Bauhin himself, quote for it, does not even belong to any species of this genus.


Of these two varieties, in the former the crown is more finely crenated; and bulbs from Charlton flower at least 2.
fortnight earlier than those from Mill Hill, when planted close together; in the latter a strange difference of smell occurs, for among many flowers growing in the same field, which exhale the usual narcotic odour, some will be found with a totally different and pleasant smell, like that of *Polyanthus*; and this difference is permanent in the flowers of that bulb and its offspring. I have only met with such roots twice, near Kirkstall Abbey, in Yorkshire, and in a field behind the King’s Head Inn, in Mill Hill; but in both places many flowers were slightly fragrant, and a very few powerfully so. Professor Goegan mentions a parallel difference of smell in the flowers of *Grandiflorus*; but that it rather resembled that of *Lilac*; and was often diffused after the flowers had been long blown: “Nectarium sære odoris expers,” “sæpius (et sub anthesis finem) odorem spirat suavissimum,” “Syringe magis quam Narcissis affinem,” are his words. In *our Festalis*, the fragrance is strongest when the crown is just beginning to open, and latterly somewhat of the Daffodil smell, mixed with the other, is perceptible. Probably with a little attention, such individuals may be found in both varieties all over the kingdom: the pleasant smell is no doubt diffused by the anthers, but the unpleasant one by the corolla: for those roots with sweet-smelling flowers, which I transplanted into my garden, always ripened seeds.


In the days of Parkinson, this species was as common as it is now scarce, being mentioned by all the old botanists. It requires shade and pure loam, but will not refuse to live in other soils. The flowers have a slight citron-like perfume, and it is unquestionably the Narcissus Moschatus of Linne, who was induced to give it that doubly erroneous name, partly by a blunder of Japhen Bauhin’s.


Both these milk-white Daffodils were cultivated at Paris, in the time of Henry the Fourth; and I saw at Fontainebleau, in 1786, a fire-screen, said to have been given by him to the fair Gabrielle, on which they were most naturally embroidered in coloured silks, still fresh: they were represented growing out of the earth with several flowers in each bunch, and the crown of this species straw-colour, which it is for a day or two: at the bottom was the following title and date, Conquelourdes blancs, 1593. The flowers of this species smell like Ginger, and it will grow in any soil, preferring nevertheless, a moist loam. I found it in the field at Mill Hill, where the seeds ripened every year, but in the borders of the garden, which was nearer the gravel, very seldom.

*Corbularia Tenuifolia.* MSS. Narcissus tenuifolius.
This species grows wild in the mountains of Biscay, and though it may have been in our gardens formerly, I do not think that it was known to Parkinson. I met with it at Mile End, where there was a whole bed thriving many years, the original bulbs having been imported from Holland in 1760, by Mr. James Gordon; and he probably introduced it, for I never saw it in any other collection, till I had also increased and distributed the bulbs among my friends. Mr. Phillip Miller takes no notice of it, nor have I yet found a specimen in any of our old herbariums. It is hardy, but should be planted in pure loam, and a very sheltered situation; for, as the leaves appear in autumn, they are sometimes cut off by hard black frosts, which injures the roots exceedingly. It flowers here in the end of February, or March.


A more tender species than the former, growing wild in various parts of Portugal and Spain, as well as in Tangier, from which last country Broussonet sent me both roots and specimens. It will exist here in the open ground, but the best method of cultivating it is in a pot of light hazel loam, under a frame with alpine plants, as it only requires protection from severe frost. With this treatment it multiplied by offsets abundantly, and often ripened seeds: at Chapel Allerton.


This is a Pyrenean mountain plant, which grows wild abundantly near Tarbes, quite hardy, and will thrive with us in any soil, flowering late in April or May. It is now brought forced to Covent Garden in great plenty every spring. Besides these three species, Mr. Haworth possesses a dried specimen of a fourth, the bulb of which came from Holland, with the title of White Trumpet Marin; this I have not yet seen, living, but it grows wild in Biscay, and was certainly cultivated by Parkinson in 1629.

The first of these varieties is very common in all our gardens, in a double state, but I have never met with it single: the second produces flowers of a paler or deeper tint, according to the soil and situation in which it grows; for on dry lime-stone fully exposed to the sun, they are much yellower; and in a parcel of roots taken up with a ball of earth, to be transplanted from a shady situation, but accidentally left on a gravel walk, I found the crown two days after changed to a deep orange colour. It was discovered near Bagneres de Luchon, by Nicholas Le Quelt, so famed in ancient story as a rhizotothist, and will grow anywhere, but has never ripened seeds with us to my knowledge.

Queltia Capan. MSS. Narcissus calathinus. Decand. in Pl. Lit. n. 177. cum IC. exculus synonymus.

This species flowered in the garden of Mr. Maddock, florist, at Walworth, about twenty years ago, who imported it from Holland; he had only a single root, which he would not part with at any price, and soon lost it, most probably owing to the rich composition of his borders. It grows wild in the Isles de Glenans, near Cape Finisterre; so we may hope, notwithstanding the war, it may reach this country again.


I cannot quote Narcissus triandrus: of Linne, taken up by him only from L'Ecluse, as a synonym of this species, because both L'Ecluse and Parkinson describe the leaves of their plant green, and its flowers snow-white, characters of primary importance in this Natural Order: if they really are the same plant, which some future botanist who searches the mountains of Galicia must determine, L'Ecluse has been less accurate than usual, and Parkinson has not only copied, but augmented that great botanist's blunder. It was introduced by Edward Whitaker Gray, M. D. in 1777 from Oporto, where it grows wild, and will endure the open air.

An elegant species, the flower of which is delightfully fragrant, like Hyacinthus Muskaris: why that odour should have been compared to musk I am at a loss to conceive, being totally different. It grows wild in the Pyrenean mountains, from whence bulbs were brought here by Francis Le Veau, whom Parkinson eulogizes as "the honestest root-ga," "therer that ever came over to us." Tradescant probably purchased some of these, in whose garden at Lambeth, fifty years afterwards, Dr. Uvedale met with it, as appears by his catalogue. Dr. Uvedale gave it to Sherard, and from him it was distributed to most others of the Cultivation of rare Plants.
here, for it even ripened seeds in the borders at Chapel Allerton. It succeeds better, nevertheless, in a pot of pure loam, sheltered under a frame, as in severe frosts, unless the ground is pretty well covered with snow the leaves are generally injured.


To the florists in Holland we are indebted for preserving this species, from whence our nurserymen have lately imported it. It was cultivated by Parkinson, but had long been lost here, and thrives best, like the following, in the open ground.


For many years this species was confined to the gardens about Halifax, in Yorkshire, where I helped to propagate it when at school in that neighbourhood, and was flogged in the Whitsuntide holidays of 1769, for running out of bounds to know the name of it at North Bierly; lately, however, our worthy member, Mr. George Anderson, with the assistance of some London nurserymen, has pretty well cleared the north of it; and if they will only make it plentiful in the south, I shall rejoice. The surest method of doing this, is to plant the bulbs in a border of pure loam, rather moist than dry; about once in four or five years, as soon as the leaves are decayed, they should be taken up and transplanted, but not oftener; for I have found, this, and many other bulbous-rooted plants, succeed better by not being too frequently removed, their leaves sheltering one another in snows and storms, so that if the ends are cut, the lower part remains green. The figure in the *Botanical Magazine* is taken from a weak specimen, this species producing generally from three to five, and I have seen on a stem as many, as seven flowers, the crown of which is very exactly divided into six small equal lobes.


This species is not described by L'Ecluse or Parkinson, and the oldest specimen that I have seen in any herbarium, was gathered in the Eitham garden in 1720, not long after it had been introduced by Dr. William Sherard; he probably sent, or brought it from some part of the Mediterranean coast, for it grows wild in the Island of Corsica, but is not indigenous, that I can ascertain, in the north of Spain. The first figure is in the *Theatrum Florae* above quoted, which was published at Paris in 1622; but the plant had been lost there for more than a century, as Monsieur Thouin told me in 1786, and has only lately been again received in the Jardin des Plantes. In our country, by the liberal spirit of Mr. Thomas Knowlton, it is now very common, having been...
abundantly increased by him, both before and after he left Eltham; among other gardens, he sent it to Dr. Richardson's, at North Bierly, where I got my roots. It is a hardy plant, thriving in almost any soil, especially a deep hazel loam; but as the leaves appear above ground earlier than those of the two following species, they are often nipt at the end by very severe frosts.


If the synonyms with a mark of interrogation belong to this species, it grows wild in the meadows of Mont D'Or, Orcival, and near the sources of the Dordogne extending itself as far as Geneva; but my only authority for this guess, is a specimen sent to me from Switzerland, by Mr. Davall, nor am I sure of that being a wild one. It was cultivated both here, and at Paris, early in the 16th century; and is now sometimes brought to Covent Garden in nosegays, mixed with the following, being equally hardy. No modern figure of it has yet been published.

great account for the master, as any crop they could em-
ploy their ground in, till within these seven or eight years; 
and so proved, barren, or produced only single flowers."

"To cure this disease, the method I used was to lay some 
tiles just under the roots, to prevent their running down-
wards; but this has not answered, nor do I think it pos-
sible wholly to recover them; for after this alteration in 
the root, the leaf, which was fistulous, becomes a plain 
sulcated leaf, and, if the root ever blossoms after, the 
flowers are large and single, which were before small and 
double." This disease, I am sorry to add, is not confined 
either to the double or single Jonquil; and it may perhaps 
be occasioned by too little nutriment at one period, and too 
much at another; for I always observed more or less of it 
at Chapel-Allerton, in roots, which remained accidentally in 
the green-house after being forced, and were watered like 
the rest of that collection, more and more abundantly as the 
days lengthened; the leaves of such forced roots, often con-
tinuing green till August or September. I wish this hint 
may stimulate some active young gardener, to make the ex-
periment of planting these diseased caroty roots in pure 
loam, and checking any growth in their leaves after the 
month of May, by covering the border when showers fall, so 
that it may be kept quite dry till the autumnal equinox.


This species has probably originated in the Dutch gardens 
from the Jonquil, fecundated by some of the following, but 
it is not hybrid, having ripened seeds in Mr. Grays's nursery. 
It is occasionally imported from Holland, and thrives in moist loam.


I cultivated both this and the preceding plant for thirty 
years, without ever finding one change into the other, as 
Mr. Ker relates! Its native country is unknown, being 
imported from Holland; and it may, like that, have been pro-
duced by the Dutch florists: neither of them are much 
valued, because they bear so few flowers, though excessively 
fragrant.


The many species of this genus, confounded under Nar-
cissus Tazetta of LINNÉ, are so quickly sold at Covent Gar-
den, that it is of some importance for a gardener to know 
those, which are hardy enough to succeed in the open ground. 
This will thrive anywhere, and forces admirably; but whether 
indigenous in the south of Europe, or an artificial produc-
tion of some Dutch florist, is yet uncertain. I found it in 
gradually decayed, and I have never seen it near London; the 
colour of the flowers is rather paler than in the Jonquil, and 
their smell somewhat different.
the borders at Mill-Hill, where it had increased prodigiously, and often ripened seeds. Its green leaves, and peculiarly fragrant flowers, shew its near affinity to Bifrons.


A tender species, hardly worth cultivating here: for its flowers have a sickly hue, as if they had been deprived of light; changing, as Parkinson remarks, to "a more sullen yellow colour," and they come out later than most of the others, which is no recommendation in forcing. I believe it grows wild in the Island of Cyprus.


This is likewise tender, but so beautiful, that it deserves all the care and labour a gardener can bestow. The leaves are very glaucous, forming a strong contrast to those of other plants, and the flowers are produced in large bunches, their delicate snow-white petals hanging lightly in the air, which they fill with perfume, resembling that of Jasmine. In naming it therefore, instead of our shopmen's vulgar comparison of Paper-White, I have adopted Leeuwen's more appropriate one, which is in fact likewise a specific character. It is probably wild near some of the coasts of Asia Minor, having been sent from Constantinople to Brussels in 1597; but the Dutch florists never succeeded in cultivating it, and we are still, as formerly, supplied with the bulbs from Italy. Anxious to establish it here, I planted it repeatedly in the borders at Chapel Allerton, but the leaves were generally more or less blasted by the frosts, and the roots never survived longer than two or three years. At Mill-Hill I had better success, for one bulb, under the shelter of a Laurel on the terrace, where the soil was deep loam thrown up from the adjacent field, continued to live and increase during all the seven years of my residence there, with no other shelter than the dead leaves blown over it in autumn. This proves that it may be grown in our Island, and I have no doubt, in many situations, by covering the beds with long straw during winter, advantageously for the market: it would probably require no protection whatever, close to the sea. A deep sandy loam, rather moist than dry, and free from all manure whatever, is the soil I would recommend for it.


It is exceedingly probable that this is a florist's species, and the remarks of Dr. Sints on the subject deserve to be written in letters of gold: his coadjutor however is mistaken respecting its synonyms, bulbs of it having been sent, with the name of Orientalis, to the late Dr. Hope, from the Upsal garden by Linne himself. I refer it to this genus rather than to Quellia, from the number of its flowers, and differently inserted filaments. No plant is more hardy, thriving in any soil; but it is not worth cultivating, having coarse leaves, and only from two to four flowers on a stalk.

**Hermione Cupularis.** MSS. Narcissus Tazetta. Ker

A hardy species, but whether indigenous out of any garden I know not. It forces well, and on this account, as well as the orange tint of its flowers, is much cultivated, though their odour is not the most agreeable. When left to multiply in the open border, it produces comparatively few flowers in a bunch, unless the soil is very deep.

**Hermione Floribunda.** MSS. Grande Primo Citroniere. *Floristis Batavis.*

I dare not quote the beautiful figure in the 946th plate of the *Botanical Magazine* for my plant, which is the Grande Primo Citroniere of our shops, with a truncated crown, more like that of the Soleil D’or, and never lobed or split in any that I have seen. In deep moist loam it generally produces from ten to fourteen flowers on the principal stalk, and being very hardy, I can recommend it strongly for general cultivation. Those who grow it, or any other species, for the market, may profit by the following intelligence: Some years ago I gained admittance into the grounds of Mr. Daniel Carter, at Fulham, who has long cultivated large quantities of Polyanthus Narcissusses for sale, and was surprised to find all the crop nearly gathered, though very early in the season. His son, however, explained the mystery, by taking me into a large barn, which was filled with the gathered flowers, blowing in pans of water; and he told me that by doing this, the bulbs continued to produce as abundant crops every year, as new ones imported from Holland. The practice was suggested to him by remarking, that in a bed left for seed one year, very few roots sent up a complete bunch of flowers the following season, and many roots none at all. He therefore now cuts off the stalk close to the ground, as soon as two or three of the flowers are expanded, but is very careful not to injure the leaves. The farmer may here take a lesson from the gardener, and will find the average produce of his hayfields, as I can speak from experience, greatly increased in a few years, by cutting the grass early; another advantage of which is, that we have very seldom any heavy rains, till after Midsummer day.


A species which, like many more, has possibly risen from seed in the Dutch gardens, between some one of this and the next genus. To the florist its chief merit consists in the fragrance of its flowers, which resembles that of our Primrose peerless. It is hardy, but the largest imported roots seldom bear more than four or five flowers on a stalk.


This is a truly natural plant, and grows wild in Roservige; from whence the bulbs were sent to L'Ecluse by Monsieur Le Venier. It is exceedingly hardy, and will succeed in any soil, but in deep loam almost every peduncle is biflorous, and it often ripens seeds. The flowers have a powerful smell.
like those of the following plant, our *Primrose peerless*, from which it differs, generically in the structure of its tube and crown.


L'Ecluse informs us, that in his days this species was supposed to grow wild in England; but Parkinson says he never could hear where, though "so common in all country" "gardens, that we scarce give it place in our more curious" "parks." As it is a complete hybrid, it may in future ages disappear; the defect however is not in its male organs, as Mr. Ker imagines, for I have always found perfect pollen in them, but in the ovarium, which never contains any seeds. I venture to say never, because I have carefully dissected more than a thousand specimens at various times, without finding even the rudiment of a seed. In a dried one, gathered near Geneva by Dick, and supposed to be wild, I found none; neither in several from the warmer climate of Montpellier; nor in another from Sherard's herbarium. If this plant had only appeared lately, I should have thought it had been produced by the Dutch florists; but as it was unquestionably in most of our country gardens, so early as the 15th century, it is most probably one of Nature's mules. That new species of vegetables may be produced by human art, equally distinct and fertile with those previously in existence, I have not a shadow of doubt; all are alike the works of

God, whether he ordains the unconscious foot of a bee; or the skilful hand of man to be his agent, in conveying pollen of one plant to the stigma of another; and however my opinion may be criticised by those who are under the necessity of spending more time in the closet than in the field, I leave it as a legacy to future gardeners, the full belief and practice of which will reward them with superior flowers, and fruits, to any yet seen or tasted. The name of *Biflorus* is very ambiguous, for the peduncle has frequently only one; but sometimes three flowers.


This species grows wild in the moist sub-alpine meadows of Switzerland, and will thrive in any border that is not very dry indeed; it flowers here early in April, a little before the following, which having also rather narrow leaves, is often confounded with it, and they are both charmingly fragrant.


No modern figure of this species has yet appeared, which there is strong presumptive evidence of being the *Narcissus of Theocritus and Virgil*: the first of these poets alludes
to the fragrance of its flowers in the words "serrosa," as the second does to the colour of its crown in that of "purpurea;" but my belief is chiefly founded on the locality of the plant. L'Ecluse, who first distinguished it from the other two species with a scarlet rim, after informing us that he had observed it in some meadows of Languedoc, adds that it was in those days constantly sent, with other bulbous roots, from Constantinople; and he notices its peculiar character of occasionally producing two flowers on a stalk. I have a specimen gathered in some part of Greece, which Sherard sent to the learned Dr. Uvedale; and to ascertain L'Ecluse's plant more positively, when Broussonet was last in this country, I requested him to send me wild roots from Montpellier. This he did the following year; and had that zealous naturalist's life been spared, I am well-assured that we should now have been indebted to him for an exquisitely fine flavoured Plum, which by his directions I long ago met with at Carcassone, and which he believed had been left there by the Moors. The roots from Montpellier proved to be this species, and one of them produced two flowers on a stalk, which I have never yet seen in Radiiflorus, or Patellaris. It is equally hardy, delighting in moist loam, and flowering here immediately after Radiiflorus.

APPENDIX.

I. Some Objects for which the Horticultural Society intend to present Premiums and Medals.

Read February 6, 1811.

It has been the intention of the Horticultural Society, from its first institution, to present annually honorary Premiums, or Medals, to such persons as have raised, and produced before them, any new and valuable variety of Fruit, or esculent Plant, or who have made any important discovery in Horticulture. But as the Society conceived every one of these to be still capable of acquiring a greater degree of perfection than it has yet attained, they did not think it necessary to direct the attention of Gardeners to the improvement of any particular plant. Subsequently, however, they have been induced to think, that it might be advantageous, to publish an account of such projected improvements as shall be suggested by their Members, or others, and approved by their Council; and the following are therefore proposed as objects deserving, amongst others, the attention of experimental Horticulturists.

New varieties of the Potato, better calculated for forcing, and for supplying the markets early in the summer, than those at present cultivated.