importance in the vast sum total of flowering plants. But, after all, we cannot have too many beautiful flowers, and many very beautiful ones, which we should not otherwise have had, have been given us by the hybridizer. Moreover, his labors have largely helped the botanist to read the riddles which attend the descent and affinities of wild plants; and, if this is so, it is simply because the hybridizer follows Nature's own lead. Nature herself is the great, persistent and inventive hybridizer, as any one may discover if he will try to study our Oaks, for example, our Willows, or Orchids themselves. If we do well to scorn the gardener who can see no interest in "the wild garden of innocence and peace," are we not equally open to criticism if we find no beauty in the infinitely varied products of the seed-bed and the propagating-house? Could Mr. Gibson have known without the hybridizer's telling which of the Cypripediums he saw were man's hybrids and which Nature's? And if not—or even if he could—why might not each challenge admiration on its intrinsic merits?

No doubt it is a degenerate taste which sees no charm in the modest flowers which open trustfully without any care of man, and writers like Mr. Gibson, who invite us to the nooks where they are hiding, are doing a worthy service. But an affectation of simplicity of taste may be as undesirable as other affectations. Cultivated flowers do not lack beauty; many of the flowers of artificially produced hybrids do not lack beauty even when growing in the "degenerate precincts" of the hybridizer's garden.

It is hardly a month ago since we called attention to the danger which threatened the last remaining grove of Giant Sequoias in Tulare County, California, and expressed the desire, which must have been shared by every public-spirited person in the country, that this forest should remain the property of the nation forever. The most that could have been reasonably hoped was that Secretary Noble would withhold this land from entry for a time until public opinion became sufficiently strong to make it possible to secure some protective legislation. But a bill to set apart this grove as a public park forever was at once introduced into the House by General Vandever, and it has already passed both Houses by unanimous consent. The reservation not only includes the particular township first named, but certain other outlying forest-lands, and especially some in which are the fountains of the streams which flow through the principal grove. By this act the park is placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be as soon as possible to make and publish rules for its care and management. It is enacted that these regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits and natural curiosities within said park, that the reservation shall be maintained in its natural condition, and, also, that the fish and game within its boundaries shall be protected from capture or destruction for the purpose of merchandise or profit. Provision is made for the erection of such buildings as may be needed to accommodate visitors upon leases not exceeding ten years of parcels of ground not to exceed five acres.

The proper management of this reservation, however, is a matter of future concern. The cause for congratulation is that there is now no danger that this last remnant of the race of colossal trees shall be given over to destruction. And now, why should not a similar reservation of Redwood forest be made somewhere in the Coast Range? These trees are even more beautiful and almost as interesting as the Big Trees, their relatives. Redwood timber is of such well known value that it is rapidly falling before the axe. In a few years these beautiful forests will be only a memory. It may be that there is no typical Redwood forest still remaining in the hands of the Government. If so, the state of California or some of the wealthy citizens of that state could leave to posterity no more enduring monument of their public spirit than the gift of a tract of Redwood timber with provision for its protection forever.

And have we not reason to hope that the Committees of Public Lands in both Houses, to whose efficient action the country is primarily indebted for the salvation of the Sequoia grove, may now be encouraged to report the Yosemite Park Bill? The success of the Tulare Reservation Act would seem to indicate that the sentiment of Congress in reference to matters of this sort is now altogether wholesome. The Yosemite bill can be passed at this session if the effort is only made with courage and confidence.

Plan for a Small Town Place.

In Garden and Forest for May 28th, 1890, we published outline plans of four small places, showing the importance of a skillful disposition of the house and other buildings with reference to special local circumstances. We present this week one of these same plans on a larger scale with the intention of showing the design a little more fully.

The place is not a new one, for the house, which is an old-fashioned, square, colonial brick structure, was built about fifty years ago, and the garden was laid out and planted at the same time. It had been long neglected and trees allowed to grow up and crowd each other so much that many were ruined, and they were so spread over the ground as to destroy all breadth. A few years ago, while alterations and additions were being made to the house, it was thought best to rearrange the garden at the same time, and, of course, the first thing to do was to thin out the trees and save the best of them, leaving in general a belt about the borders of the property to screen out neighboring buildings.

A low, broad terrace was thrown out on the east side of the house, lending dignity and support to it, and a wall was carried from the house to the street on the south, which completely enclosed the garden and made it retired, domestic and secluded.

As the house was distinctly a winter residence, this seclusion and protection of the garden was considered the more important, and for the same reason there were planted on each side of the circuit walk and about the borders of the property groups and masses of broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, mostly Rhododendrons, but also such plants as Andromedas, Kalmias, Mahonias, Daphne, Ledum, etc., to get variety and to gracefully edge down the masses.

It will be noticed that the house has two entrances: one from the street on the south, and the other from the paved court-yard on the north. This court serves also as an entrance to the stables and to the kitchens, which are in the "L" of the house, but so arranged as not to be obtrusive or disagreeable from the court.

The place is about two acres in extent, and is situated on flat, high ground in one of the larger cities of New England.

Color Notes on California Wild Flowers.—II.

One of the prettiest of the California wild flowers in June and July is the Chilian Canchalagua (*Erythræa venusta*). It is abundant in southern California on the mesas and hill-sides, and in the valleys, usually less than a foot in height, but in some moist localities exceeding two feet. The rotate corolla, with a slender tube and five (rarely four or six) divisions, exceeds an inch across, the divisions brilliantly colored, of a shade belonging somewhere between solferino and magenta, too dark for rose-purple, with a narrow white circle in the centre. The centre and the tube of the corolla, together with the rather prominent stigma, are of a greenish sulphur-yellow, the style and filaments white, while the prominent, exserted, erect anthers are of a brilliant lemon-yellow. The blossoms close their eyes upon the going down of the sun, turning their bright, dewy faces to him again in the morning. The flowers will remain bright and fresh for days and weeks after they are gathered without being put in water. This is one of its most excellent features, the value of which will be recognized by florists. Sometimes, though rarely, the divisions of the corolla are of a delicate pale lavender and often pure white in this species. The white ones are especially lovely when seen in a mass of the brilliant solferino. It will doubtless prove easy of cultivation, and if so, the California Centaury will become deservedly popular in American gardens. Medicinally the plant possesses valuable antiseptic and febrifuge properties, and is in high repute as a bitter tonic and stomachic.

Agave Deserti, one of the Mescal or Maguey plants, so abundant on the western borders of the Colorado Desert, produces

a stalk about seven to ten feet in height, surmounted with a large panicle of flowers of a chrome-yellow. The foliage is of a glaucous green.

Krameria canescens, also a denizen of the Desert wilds, is a low shrub about two feet high, bearing in spring-time a profusion of showy magenta colored flowers.

Lasetia tennifolia is a showy plant, of a span to a foot in height, which produces an abundance of flowers of a color somewhat difficult to describe—something between a poppy-red and a carmine, and very brilliant. This is related to the Phloxes and Gilias, and is equally worthy of cultivation as any of them. It is found abundant on the table-lands bordering the Colorado Desert on the west, in Lower California, and a few plants stray north of the boundary into this county. The altitude of its habitat is from four to six thousand feet. This herb is also credited with valuable medicinal properties, being held in high repute by the Indians and Mexicans, who use it in various diseases, especially in fevers.

In the mountains of Southern and Lower California there is a peculiarly beautiful form of *Calochortus luteus*, with flowers an inch and a half across of deep lemon-yellow, with a maroon-purple spot near the base of the petals. The glandural area is also of a maroon-purple, the space between being occupied with numerous lemon-yellow hairs. The scape is one to two feet in height. The plant is rare, growing very scattering in rocky places.

Mimulus brevipes has large, showy lemon-yellow flowers, and is one of our most abundant annuals.

Mimulus glutinosa is a shrub rarely more than two feet high, and produces in spring an immense mass of large buff-yellow flowers an inch and a half long, over an inch across, with two orange spots in the centre of the flower, the tube of the corolla white.

Dicentra chrysantha is a fine perennial plant, with delicate glaucous green, finely divided foliage, and producing a tall spike of flowers of a bright gamboge-yellow. It is not especially showy, but quite noticeable, and has long been in cultivation in Europe, where it is still in good demand. Like many others of our California wild flowers that have met with success in Europe, it still seems to remain unrecognized in eastern America.

Chænactis artemisæfolia is a rank growing, rather conspicuous and pretty annual with us, attaining a height of three or four feet, with wide-spreading branches, bearing numerous white composite flowers in balls an inch in diameter.

Sphæralcea Emoryi is a half-shrubby plant, one to five feet high, closely related to the Abutilons, with foliage of a sage-green, and showy, flame-scarlet flowers. It is easily cultivated and a very desirable plant.

Thamnosma montanum is a low shrub found on the mountains bounding the Colorado Desert on the west. It has a very pungent, spicy odor. The yellowish bark of the nearly leafless plant is prettily set off by the numerous prune-purple flowers, which fade to white.

Astragalus Purshii, var. (?) *coccineus*, *Parry* (*West American Scientist*, vi., 9-10), is one of the most beautiful and showy of the genus, producing a profusion of handsome scarlet flowers. It is confined to the same region as the last, and is probably the last plant to receive its name at the hands of the late Dr. C. C. Parry. It is scarcely a span high, the stems and foliage covered with a dense white tomentum, and forming a rather broad, compact mass, which wonderfully enlivens the rocky or sandy places where it grows with its large and showy flowers. It is the most worthy species of the genus in Southern California for extended cultivation.

Monardella lanceolata is a showy annual of our mountains, producing masses of bright Phlox-purple flowers. It is six inches to a foot high, branching, with a strong but pleasant Pennyroyal perfume, and is well worthy of cultivation.

Orcutt, California. *C. R. Orcutt.*

A Suggestion from Nature.

OBSERVING planters can often find instructive hints as to the arrangement of trees and shrubs by studying the ways in which they naturally group themselves in certain soils and exposures. Before our camp to-day lies a small island, which may be taken as the type of very many similar ones in the "park region" of Minnesota, and any landscape-gardener who has a little island to cover with foliage could gather some fresh ideas for his work by taking note how Nature has done hers.

The beach of the island is sand on clay. The interior rises some ten feet above the water and is gravelly. In the shallow water are Bullrushes; dense near the shore, and the shore itself is bordered with a circle of pale Willow-bushes. Inside the Willows is a circle of Alders, a little taller; then a circle of Birches, with occasional dark spires of Fir; then Elms, with a central dome of Norway Pine.

Other islands of the type, but smaller, have circles of Spiræa, Willow and Maple, with a group of Elms or a single drooping Elm forming the dome. Some have a single White Pine in the centre; some a group of Firs or a White Spruce.

It should be borne in mind that Fir, Spruce and White Pine require damp subsoil, and in nature are brushy underneath, while the Norway Pine grows best on dry ground, and as soon as a roof is formed the lower branches drop off and a yellow carpet of the leaves is spread underneath.

Caribou Lake, Minn. *H. B. Ayres.*

A New Enemy to Willows.

EARLY in the present year I called attention to the imported Elm-borer (*Zeuzera pyrina*), which is now known to extend from New York City to beyond Newark, as a danger to our Elm. The present season has brought into notice, as a danger to Willows, another imported insect, this time a beetle, known as *Cryptorhynchus Lapathi*. It is one of the snout beetles of which the white Pine weevil is a shining example, and the injury to Willow is in appearance much like the injury to Pine. The beetle is black in general color, about five-sixteenths of an inch long and nearly half as wide, with the ends of the wing-covers a rich pale pink, an oblique shoulder stripe of the same color and the thorax also with pinkish lines above. There are five tufts of elevated black scales on the thorax and a linear series on each wing-cover, which are quite prominent and readily identify the insect. Altogether it is rather a pretty species, the legs being also banded with pink. The beetle makes its appearance in June and July, and lays its eggs in the branches, and, sometimes, also the stems of young Willows, apparently very close together. The larvæ hatch the same fall, burrow into the wood until the branches are honeycombed in every direction and change to a pupa in May or June. Samples of infested branches shown me contain burrows as closely run as the wood will sustain, and in the neighborhood of Newark, I am informed, many Willow clumps have been entirely killed off.

The first notice of this species in America was by Mr. Wm. Jülich, of New York, who in 1887 published the appearance of the species near Hoboken, New Jersey, in Willows there, and mentioned that isolated specimens had been found previously in Hoboken and on Staten Island. Since that time it has been found more frequently, and in the summer of 1889 a single specimen was taken near Newark, where previously none had been found. Early in 1890 the Newark collectors noticed the dying Willows and bred numerous specimens of the beetle from infested branches. In Staten Island it has also increased and multiplied and bids fair to become a serious pest. In Europe the species is a Poplar feeder, and probably this tree will not be exempt here when the insect is thoroughly domesticated.

There is only one treatment possible for this pest, and that is cutting all infested branches and burning them to prevent the maturing of the beetles. The cutting should be done early in spring, when the infested branches are most easily recognizable, and the remedy should be thoroughly applied. A tree once attacked will be eventually killed if the beetles are allowed to breed freely or if the knife is not thoroughly used. It is a small measure of comfort to know that the insect has brought with it a parasite which may eventually succeed in obtaining control; but at all events we seem to have fairly domesticated with us another emigrant which may prove as serious a pest as the Elm-leaf beetle.

Rutgers College. *John B. Smith.*

Buildings should not stand alone in open ground, lest they have the effect of spots, and appear foreign to the nature around them and not as if they grew in it. It is in the highest degree important that they should be in keeping with the landscape. Buildings within a park are only parts of a whole; and they must be designed with just as much regard to the view of them as to the view from them. A certain irregularity in park buildings is to be desired, as more conformable with nature and more picturesque. Buildings half hidden behind each other, large and small windows in the same wall, door-ways unsymmetrically placed, projecting and retreating angles, now and then a high bare wall with a rich cornice, isolated towers, widely overhanging roofs and balconies unsymmetrically set; in short, everywhere a striking but far from inharmonious irregularity, which expresses imagination, while yet the motive for every departure from regularity either appears at once, or may be divined.—*From Pückler-Muskau's "Andeutungen über Landschafts-gärtnerei," 1834.*