

PRIMULA OBCONICA, OR JAPANESE PRIMROSE.

THE great value of this plant is too little known, it is undoubtedly the nearest to a perpetual bloomer of anything that has yet been introduced. A plant or small clump in a five or six inch pot will continue to bloom, under fair treatment, for at least ten months of the year. This Primrose is absolutely free from insect pests and disease, it prefers a moderate temperature and some sun, but, will bear as low a temperature as the ordinary geranium without injury, the roots must be kept moist without wetting the leaves.

After commencing to flower it will continue to throw up stem after stem, each bearing a dozen flowers, delicately shaded from white to lavender, standing sheer above the foliage. The flowers are useful alike for personal decoration, or as a table plant.

The plants are easily grown from seed or can be purchased at a small cost. In June the clumps can be divided, repotted and kept in some shady corner and occasionally watered till wanted in Autumn. The leaves are said to irritate the skins of some persons, but I have never experienced any bad effects although subject to plant poisoning. The above cut is taken from "Book of Canadian Plants," Webster Bros., Hamilton.

Gravenhurst, Muskoka.



FIG. 652.—PRIMULA OBCONICA.

J. P. COCKBURN.

The Black Barbarossa.

(See Question No. 624.)

Hon. G. W. Campbell, of Ohio, the celebrated grape grower of the State, writes: I think Black Barbarossa was introduced into England some fifty years ago, and was said to be as large as Black Hamburg; but it does not seem to have attained popularity, and I see no mention of it for a long time. I see it mentioned in a French work, as a rare beauty, but inferior to the Chas-selas. I do not think it would have any value for out of door culture above the Hamburg.