

require the assistance of labourers or field-hands. Provided the soil be fertile, moist, and shaded, it needs but a small space to accommodate thousands of vanilla plants, and this produce, being of considerable value, yields to the cultivator a profit which no other plant on the island can give. The crop of Reunion in 1864 sold at an average of 50s. the pound, therefore a sum of 104,000*l.* was circulated, principally among the small planters and coloured population. It would be rash to expect such prices in future, but even admitting a reduction to 30s. the pound, it would still be advantageous to continue this cultivation.

For exportation in good condition vanilla should be packed in tins well soldered, in quantities of about 10 pounds.

In December, 1868, when the market was glutted, vanilla realised but 6s. a pound: subsequently it went up at a bound. It was 15s. per lb. in March, 1860; 28s. per lb. in August, 1871; 45s. in August, 1873; 57s. to 60s. in 1875; and now it is quoted 20s. to 40s.

Besides the large consumption of vanilla as a flavouring essence, it is also used to a small extent in scenting tobacco, snuff, and cigars, and as a perfume; and more recently a new demand for vanilla has arisen, especially in Germany, the pod having been found to yield a fine brown colour.

Vanilla flourishes in Bangalore and Calcutta, and thrives in Ootacamund, where the cold is even more intense.

A few hundred pounds of vanilla are raised in Guadeloupe. In 1869 260 kilos were gathered there, and in 1871 149 kilos were shipped to France.

It was from Reunion that the vanilla orchid was carried to Mauritius. We have not the returns of the exports for the last few years, but the shipments from that island for the five years ending 1871, with the declared values, were as follows:—

	lbs.	£
1867	—	1,488
1868	4,014	966
1869	5,351	2,004
1870	4,986	2,860
1871	4,920	3,345

Among the vegetable odours assimilating somewhat to vanilla are the Faham leaves, of Mauritius, from another orchid, *Angræcum fragrans*, which somewhat resembles the perfume of vanilla and Tonquin beans. The leaves of some other orchids such as *Orchis fusca*, dried carefully, also possesses the odour of those of the Faham.

Siam benzoin, especially that in tears, and the balsams of Tolu and Peru, have a pleasant perfume, like the vanilla. That of the Tonquin bean (*Coumarouna odorata*), long used in perfumery, and the dried flowers of the melilots, especially the blue melilot, have also a pleasant odour. Of Tonquin beans 20,770 lbs. were shipped