

THE BADDECK TELEPHONE

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THE FLOWER SHOW.

With a view to encouraging the cultivation of flowers and the ornamentation of homes and grounds with blossoming plants and shrubs, the Young Ladies' Club of Baddeck decided, about a year ago, to have a flower show, with prizes for the best specimens of cut flowers and potted plants. Although a flower show was then a new thing in our village, and our flower growers had made no special preparations for it, the display of blossoms and plants was so good, and excited so much interest, that the Club determined to have another similar exhibition this year. Inviting the cooperation not only of the townspeople but of flower lovers in all the surrounding country, the young ladies of the Club went energetically to work in July, and on the 2nd of August had their show in complete readiness for public inspection.

When the doors of Masonic Hall were thrown open at two o'clock last Wednesday afternoon, the decorations of the spacious room and the extent of the floral display were a complete surprise, even to those who had expected most. The upper part of each side wall was appropriately ornamented with gardening implements, arranged in tasteful geometrical patterns; along the dado underneath ran a long shelf, banked with moss, which supported a dense fringe of blue speedwell, yellow Canada lilies and tall, leafy perennials of various sorts; the stage was set with a garden scene representing a flower border with achillea, panther lilies, Canterbury bells, foxgloves, larkspurs and aconite, growing against and half concealing a rustic fence; upon narrow green terraces under and in front of the stage were massed a hundred or more blossoming house plants, flanked by huge clumps of larkspur and spiky foxglove, seven or eight feet in height; and near the centre of the hall, in the shade of two leafy, white-stemmed birch trees, was an artificial pond fringed with blossoming water lilies and bordered by a dense growth of wild flag interspersed with ferns, English and Japanese iris, the white and purple spikes of fringed orchis, and many other aquatic or moisture loving plants.

On green tables, set around the sides of the hall at acute angles to the walls, were hundreds of vases and pots of cut flowers and blossoming plants, most of which had been entered in competition for prizes. Of cut flowers there were exhibited forty-five distinct species, without counting varieties. Among the most noteworthy of them were roses of many kinds, annual poppies, phlox, mignonette, eschscholtzia, potentilla, calendula, alyssum, digitalis, ageratum, aconite, speedwell, white lupine, Young's evening primrose, clematis, lychnis corniflora, Canterbury bells, mallows, anemones, Cape hyacinths, nasturtiums, sweet peas, marigolds, herbaceous spiraea, hollyhocks, dahlias, annual chrysanthemums and a half dozen or more varieties of lily, including elegans, Candense, martagon and auratum.

Mr. J. H. Harris of the Nova Scotia Nursery, Halifax, who manifested a most cordial interest in the exhibition, not only sent a fine collection of cut flowers, including cannas, dahlias, Cape hyacinths and auratum lilies, but presented the Club with a large number of small potted plants, to be distributed among people who had no flowers, the Club, at the same time, offering a prize for the plant of this collection that should show the best care.

Flowers and potted plants were also sent to the Show from places in the country as far away as Middle River and St. Ann's; and after having been carried twelve or fifteen miles in jolting wagons, some of these country flowers took prizes.

At four o'clock on the first day of the exhibition a procession of pretty and tastefully dressed flower girls marched, with flower baskets, through the hall and around the square in which stand the Telegraph House and the Bras d'Or House, and in the evening there was a floral tableau arranged to illustrate a poem read by Mr. Alexander Graham

Bell and written for the occasion by his father, Mr. Alexander Melville Bell.

On the evening of the second day the decorated flower posters, painted by members of the Young Ladies Club and their friends, and already used as advertisements, were sold at auction, and J. J. McCabe Esq. announced from the stage the names of the prize winners in the flower competition. They were as follows:

CLASS I.—CUT GARDEN FLOWERS
Best Sweet Peas—Mrs. A. Kinney
" Poppies—Mrs. K. J. McKay
" Nasturtiums—Miss Hattie Campbell
" Roses—Miss Georgie M. McCurdy
" Larkspur—Miss Lillie McLeod Mid. R.
" Cornflowers—Mrs. K. J. McKay
" Lilies—Mrs. Ewen McAskill
" Annual cut flower of any kind—Miss Georgie M. McCurdy—Eschscholtzia
" Perennial cut flower of any kind—Mrs. K. McKenzie, Middle River—White hollyhock

CLASS II.—POTTED PLANTS.
Best collection on stand—Mrs. McRitchie
" Fuchsia—Mrs. Norman Morrison
" Cactus—Mrs. McDougal
" Oleander—Miss Janie B. Taylor
" Fern—Miss Morrison, St. Ann's
" Collection of plants grown in a public school—Primary Department, Miss Miller's Room
Best cared for plant from Nova Scotia—Nursery—Mrs. H. P. MeNeil

CLASS III.—POTTED WILD—FLOWERS.
Mrs. K. J. McKay (The only exhibit)

Honorable Mention was also awarded to Mrs. McKenzie, Middle River, for roses. Mrs. K. J. McKay for a collection of seventeen different varieties of grasses. Miss Georgie M. McCurdy for an exhibit of fringed orchis. Mrs. A. Haliburton for begonias. Mrs. A. Kinney for a potted fern. Mr. J. T. R. Atwater, for the lily pond in the centre of the hall which he suggested and helped to arrange.

A special prize was awarded to Mrs. David Dunlop for a particularly fine specimen of rubber plant.

The first prize for flower girls was given to Miss Winnie McKeen and the second to Miss Pearl Campbell.

Great interest in the show was manifested both by tourists and townspeople; the attendance on both days was very large; and the receipts, which were divided between the Masons and the Parents Association for the Improvement of Schools, amounted to \$114.

In the Show, as a whole, there was little that could be unfavorably criticized. The decoration of the Hall, although simple and unpretentious, was harmonious in design and extremely effective; the display of garden flowers was larger and more varied than had been anticipated; the setting of the stage was tasteful and attractive; and the lily pond, with its moss, ferns, irises and wild flag, was a fine bit of artistic composition.

Among the cut flowers that attracted attention, either on account of their beauty or the taste with which they had been arranged, were the roses foxgloves, Japanese irises and larkspur from Beinn Breagh; the nasturtiums of Miss Hattie Campbell; the California poppies and lilac-like fringed orchis exhibited by Miss Georgie M. McCurdy; the fine spikes of blue speedwell and the plate of seedling pansies shown by Mrs. McKay; and the auratum lilies sent from Halifax by Mr. Harris.

With a few exceptions, the exhibitors of cut flowers did not devote enough thought and care to their tasteful arrangement. The way in which flowers are displayed has quite as much to do with the effect that they produce as the perfection of the individual blossoms; and when flowers, like sweet peas, that grow naturally in airy, graceful sprays, are crowded together in a tight, shapeless bunch, they lose half their distinctive charm. The seedling pansies of Mrs. McKay were well displayed, and so were the spikes of fringed orchis shown by Miss Georgie M. McCurdy; but some of the exhibits were merely thrown together and tied with a string, regardless of their natural habit of growth. At the next flower show it might be well to offer a prize for the most tasteful and pleasing arrangement of a single floral variety, such as sweet pea, rose, or nasturtium, and also a prize for the best combination of several flowers, arranged with a view to harmony of color and gracefulness of form.

The exhibit of potted plants was large, and some of the individual specimens, such as the rubber plant of Mrs. David Dunlop, and the geraniums and pelargoniums of several exhibitors, were particularly fine; but the display, as a whole, lacked variety. Fully three fourths of the potted plants shown were geraniums. There were a few cacti, foliage plants, oleanders, fuchsias, ferns and begonias; a single rubber plant, and a single abutilon; but of such attractive and desirable house plants as primulas, tea roses, calceolarias, plumbagos, lantanas, gloxinias, callas, amaryllis, cyclamen, swainsonia, manettia vine, Anthony Waterer spiraea, asparagus Spre-

ngeri, dwarf Japanese maples, Cape fuchsias, solanums and bougainvilleas, there was not a specimen.

With a view to increasing the variety of both house plants and garden flowers grown in Baddeck, the Flower Show committee might take into consideration the expediency of substituting plant and seed prizes next year for the money prizes hitherto given. Any true flower lover would rather have three well established two year-old rose bushes, of new and choice kinds, or a hundred assorted bulbs of English and Spanish iris, or a dozen packets of new perennial flower seeds, than the dollar in cash which these things would cost; and if such a substitution were made, the variety of house and garden plants grown in our village would, in a few years, increase five-fold. A year's subscription to some such floricultural journal as "Gardening" might also be offered as a special prize for the greatest number of distinct species of garden flowers

shown by a single exhibitor. There is no good reason, furthermore, why a part, at least, of the pecuniary proceeds of one flower show should not be used to provide prizes for the next, and thus be made instrumental in promoting the object for which flower shows are held. If this were done, the committee would have money enough in hand to offer, as a prize for the best dozen roses, a collection of twelve hardy rose bushes of the best and rarest varieties, or, for garden flowers, an assortment of five hundred bulbs, or twenty-five packets of the choicest flower seed. Such a course, in a year or two, would fill our gardens with the newest and finest sorts of perennial flowers and our houses with the most desirable kinds of potted plants, and would thus add greatly to the interest and attractiveness of our flower shows.

Baddeck might have, and ought to have, in a few years, not only the finest flower show, but the best kept and most tastefully decorated gardens and lawns, in all eastern Canada. So far as agricultural products are concerned, we may not be able to compete successfully with growers in lower and warmer latitudes; but the nature of our climate is such that with intelligent cultivation we can produce as fine tulips, daffodils, lilies, sweet peas, and out door roses as can be shown in any part of the world; and with suitable winter protection we can even treat as our floor perennials such delicate and tender plants as anemones, tigrisias, and the Cape hyacinth. All that we need to do is to try experiments with a large number of new flowers, and thus ascertain what sorts are best adapted to our climatic conditions.

In many parts of the United States there are now being organized what are known as "Village Improvement Societies," whose object it is to educate the taste and increase the happiness of the people by ornamenting and beautifying their environment. We have no such society, as yet, in Baddeck, but an annual flower show, with the interest it creates and sustains in shrubbery, flowers, and the floral decoration of yards and grounds, will do much to fill the place that such a society takes in village life.

GEORGE KENNAN.

Cornell University, Ithaca, over which Dr. Schurman ably presides; has risen to distinction and been honored of late by President McKinley. This University owes its existence to Ezra Cornell, who died 25 years ago and had a somewhat remarkable history. He was the son of a noble-hearted Quaker, one of a family of eleven, and when a boy walked to Ithaca, forty miles from his home. He used neither liquor nor tobacco. When sixteen years of age with a brother he cleared four acres of heavy woodland, and planted it with corn, and thus earned a fund for more education. With his younger brother he also cut timber and erected a two story dwelling for their father. This farm house, for a boy of seventeen, was a town wonder. Always regretting his lack of a college education his chief ambition was to found an institution where any person could find instruction in any study. His first gift for the University consisted of 200 acres of his cherished farm near Ithaca, and \$500,000. The University was opened in 1868, with Hon. Andrew White its president. In thirty years it has numbered a thousand graduates, and his gifts to the University amounted to over \$3,000,000.

The many friends of Rev. Edward Taylor who has been in charge of a congregation at Alberni, Vancouver, are glad to see him home, on a well earned vacation, and are pleased to hear of his success in that distant field of labor.

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A. S. McDONALD,
Secretary

Baddeck, July 21st, 1899.

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