

to have been originally brought from China, and a curious legend respecting it, not generally known may prove of interest. It is as follows :—

Centuries before the Christian era, great calamities befell the Chinese Empire, and the prime minister was threatened by the Emperor with the loss of his head unless he devised a means of averting the wrath of the gods. Asserting that it had been revealed to him in a dream to make a sacrifice of men, women and fruits in a far off island where the gods made their abode, a vessel was placed at his disposal in which were collected 100 of the strongest young men and fairest maidens, together with the finest fruits. Amongst the stores was the "Bak-hap" which translated means the "Lily of the 100 fields." It was esteemed a sweet and dainty morsel, and an especial delicacy. The vessel sailed away, and this was the last the Emperor heard of his prime minister, who, however, when once on the voyage intimated to youths and maidens that instead of being sacrificed they would inhabit and populate the beautiful island he knew of, one of the islands of Japan. They willingly agreed to this, and in due course of events, by reason of the change of soil the "Bak-hap" gradually assumed greater height and strength and a more luxuriant bloom. As it improved in beauty it became less useful as an article of food, and as strong taste had developed for refinement and art in the new colony, its use as an article of food was abandoned. Hundreds of years rolled on and the island became a land of floriculture. The "Bak-hap" grew steadily in beauty and was finally exported to Europe as a new garden flower, until an American noticing its splendour secured some of bulbs, and being interested in the Bermudas introduced it there where it seems to have made its home.

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