

Primula Japonica.

We present our readers with an engraving of a new Primula, recently introduced from Japan by Mr. Fortune, and raised in England by Mr. Bull, of Chelsea. The *Florist and Pomologist*, in introducing it to the public, speaks of it as being "as hardy as a peasant, as resplendent as a princess." We learn from the same authority that it is just ten years since Mr. Fortune met with it in Japan, a basketful of blooming plants having been brought to his door. These were sent by

good account." The flowers are about an inch in diameter, of a lively magenta colour, the individual flowers being very suggestive of those of a highly coloured Phlox Drummondii. On the occasion of its being exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, on May 3rd, its first public appearance in England, it was voted a First Class Certificate by acclamation. One great merit of this new Japanese primrose is that it yields varieties no less beautiful than itself. Of its hardiness there can be no doubt, since plants which have been standing all the win-

Autumnal-Flowering Crocus.

The Crocus, as one of the earliest ornaments of the flower garden, is universally admired, and, indeed, for neat, dwarf, and compact growth, and varied shades of colour, Crocuses are unequalled for margins or edges of flower beds or borders. They are among the first flowers that remind us of spring, but the autumn-flowering kinds have no such reviving influence. They tell of coming gloom, wet, snow, frost, dreary winter with its storms and blasts. Should we value them



him to England, but none of them survived the voyage. Subsequently seeds were sent to Mr. Fortune, by W. Keswick, of China, and Walsh, Hall & Co., of Japan, and from these Mr. Bull has been so fortunate as to succeed in raising some plants. The *Florist and Pomologist* adds: "Our gardens have thus secured a perfectly new, thoroughly hardy, and exquisitely lovely primrose, one which is not only valuable on account of its intrinsic beauty, but doubly valuable as placing in the hands of the hybridizer important new materials, which will no doubt soon be turned to

ter fully exposed in the trying atmosphere of London are perfectly healthy, and came into flower about the middle of May." We learn that some of our enterprising nurserymen have already ordered this attractive novelty, and our lovers of the beautiful will be able to obtain this new gem.

The accompanying illustration is drawn to a scale of about one-half the natural size of the living plant, and with due allowance for the reduced proportions, will give a very fair idea of the exceeding beauty and luxuriance of this new hardy exotic.

less for that? They flower, it is true, at a time when flowers are plentiful, if indeed we may so term blazes of scarlet, yellow and blue, representing about half a dozen species of plants, which are all we want as regards their profusion of bloom. But there is pleasure in variety, a charm that no repetition can effect. I think there is something very refreshing in autumn-flowering plants. They seem to revive, to give life and hope in the declining year. Springing up close to plants that have been a mass of beauty, they are enhanced in beauty—they give to Nature beauty even in her decay.