

but is much more likely to be found in simple materials combined and prepared with intelligence and thrift. And Sir H. Thompson's positive assertion that persons in ordinary health are *better without* the *habitual* use of any kind of alcoholic stimulant should have the more force, as he does not by any means speak from the stand-point of what is usually termed a "temperance man."

A. M. M.

### THINGS IN GENERAL.

#### A BOTANICAL USURPER.

A curious instance of the invasion of a country by a plant of foreign origin is seen in the history of the mango in Jamaica. In 1782, specimens of the cinnamon, jack-fruit and mango were sent to the Botanic Garden of the Island. There the cinnamon was carefully fostered, but proved to be difficult of culture in the island; while the mango, which was neglected, became in eleven years as common as the orange, spreading over lowlands and mountains, from the sea-level to 5,000 feet elevation. On the abolition of slavery, immense tracts of land, especially coffee plantations, relapsed into a state of nature, and the mango being a favourite fruit with the blacks, its stones were flung everywhere, giving rise to groves along the roadsides and around the settlements, and the fruit of these, again, rolling down hill, gave rise to forests in the valleys. The effect of this spread of the mango has been to cover hundreds of thousands of acres, and to ameliorate the climate of what were dry and barren districts by producing moisture and shade, and by retaining the rainfalls that had previously evaporated; all this, besides affording food for several months of the year to both negroes and horses.

#### DRIED AND CRYSTALLIZED FLOWERS.

There are many of our brilliant flowers, such as dahlias, pansies, pinks, geraniums, sweet-williams, carnations, gladioli, which may be preserved so as to retain their colour for years. White flowers will not answer well for this purpose; nor any succulent plants, as hyacinths or cacti. Take deep dishes, or of sufficient depth to allow the flowers to be covered an inch deep; get the common white sand, such as is used for scouring purposes, cover the bottom of the dish with a layer half an inch deep, and then lay in the flowers with their stems downwards, holding them firmly in place while you sprinkle more sand over them, until all places between the petals are filled and the flowers are buried out of sight. A broad dish will accommodate quite a large number. Allow sufficient sand between. Set the dish in a dry, warm place, where they will dry gradually, and at the end of a week pour off the sand and examine them; if there is any moisture in the sand it must be dried before using again, or fresh sand may be poured over them the same as before. Some flowers will require weeks to dry, while others will become sufficiently dry to put away in a week or ten days. By arranging these with grasses and putting them on wire stems they will make a pretty bouquet mixed with pressed ferns. A pretty way to preserve cut flowers is to place a vase containing the cut flowers in the centre of a flat dish, into which a little water has been poured; insert a bell glass over the vase, so that the rim of the glass is covered by the water, thus forming an air tight chamber. The air surrounding the flowers will be kept constantly moist, and will remain so as long as the supply of water in the dish is kept undiminished. I recommend those who love to see plenty of fresh flowers in their sitting rooms in dry weather to adopt this plan. The experiment can be tried on a small scale by inverting a tumbler over a rosebud in a saucer of water. If some camphor has been dissolved in the saucer it will greatly assist in keeping the flowers fresh. Violets may be preserved for a long time by sticking them with short stems into a glass dish filled with damp silver sand, and then inverting a tumbler over them. Flowers may be preserved for many months by dipping them carefully, as soon as gathered, in perfectly limpid gum water; after allowing them to drain for two or three minutes, arrange them in a vase. The gum forms a complete coating on the stems and petals, and preserves their shape and colour long after they have become dry.—*The Household*.

#### WHERE THE ORANGE CAME FROM.

Although it is common for people to speak of "native orange trees," I doubt whether there are any such in Florida. It is more likely that the seed was brought into the State by the early Spanish settlers, and by them and their Indian allies was scattered and grew wild, as many cultivated plants have grown at the North. Samuel B. Parsons, of Flushing Nurseries, New York, who is probably as well-read and well-informed as a traveller in Europe and this country as any man, told me recently that the Chinese sweet orange was undoubtedly introduced into Spain at a later period than the first settlement of Florida, that some of the wild oranges now grown here bear a strong resemblance to some that are cultivated in Seville; and that the several varieties of wild oranges in Florida have probably all originated from the sour Seville orange, first introduced by the Spanish 300 years ago, which gives ample time for the change and deterioration. A vast number of these wild orange trees have been transplanted for the purpose of breeding with the sweet varieties, but with limited success. Indeed, I do not suppose that one in ten is living. Yet few trees

are less difficult to transplant if it is done with proper care. The common practice is to cut away all the tops and nearly all the roots, and the few remaining are often pretty thoroughly dried, before resetting, besides being removed from shady woods to open ground, and planted by unskilful hands. The wonder is not that they died, but that even one in ten should live.

Many of the wild trees have been engrafted with sweet buds where they grew naturally, and thus made valuable orchards, which produce some fruit the third or fourth year, and come into full bearing three or four years sooner than trees grown from seed, and, I think, are generally more thrifty and hardy, which is not the case with transplanted stumps. Ten years ago it was exceedingly difficult to get seedling trees; now nurseries are abundant and profitable. Many people prefer to buy budded stock, because the impression prevails that trees will come earlier into bearing than seedling. The greatest advantage, however, is being pretty sure of getting good sorts, or a particular kind, for there is a choice in oranges as well as apples. A really pleasant cordial, called orange wine, is sometimes made with wild orange juice and sugar, and a few wild oranges are used in making marmalade, but the great bulk of them go to decay. I think I have seen a thousand bushels at one view thus perishing almost unseen, and quite uncared for by man.

Occasionally a wild lemon tree is found in the woods, but I have never seen lemon trees growing in large groups like the orange trees. I once made a careful estimate of a wild grove found in the woods far from my habitation, and found 18,000 trees, of two or four inches diameter, growing upon a few acres of land. In preparing such a grove for budding and growing the sweet orange, it would be necessary to remove seven-eighths of the trees and to cut the others back to stumps about four feet high.

As an evergreen, ornamental tree, nothing exceeds the sour orange, which is extensively used in yards in Jacksonville and other Florida towns, and is beginning to be used for street shade. The trees are easily grown from seed. I have several now only seven years old, beautifully filled with fruit. Even without fruit, the green of orange trees makes them always beautiful. Unlike some other trees their habits are so cleanly that they do not create nuisances. The leaves are eaten, but only in a limited degree, by a large worm, seldom, seen, called the "orange puppy," which is not a very handsome animal, though the butterfly produced from it is really beautiful, and quite an ornament to our grounds during the Summer.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

#### A QUARREL IN OLD ST. PAUL'S.

At the instance of Courtenay, Bishop of London, Wicliffe was cited to appear on February 19, 1377, in Our Lady's Chapel in St. Paul's, to answer for his teaching. The rumour of what was going on got wind in London, and when the day came a great crowd assembled at the door of St. Paul's. Wicliffe, attended by two powerful friends—John, Duke of Lancaster, better known as John of Gaunt, and Lord Percy, Earl Marshal of England—appeared at the skirts of the assemblage. The Duke of Lancaster and Wicliffe had first met, it is probable, at Bruges, where it chanced to both to be on a mission at the same time. Lancaster held the Reformer in high esteem, on political if not on religious grounds. Favouring his opinions, he resolved to go with him and show him countenance before the tribunal of the bishops. "Here stood Wicliffe in the presence of his judges, a meagre form dressed in a long light mantle of black cloth, similar to those worn at this day by doctors, masters, and students in Cambridge and Oxford, with a girdle round the middle; his face, adorned with a long thick beard, showed sharp bold features, a clear piercing eye, firmly closed lips, which bespoke decision; his whole appearance full of great earnestness, significance, and character." But the three friends had found it no easy matter to elbow their way through the crowd. In forcing a passage something like an uproar took place, which scandalised the court. Percy was the first to make his way into the Chapel of Our Lady, where the clerical judges were assembled in their robes and insignia of office. "Percy," said Bishop Courtenay, sharply—more offended, it is probable, at seeing the humble Rector of Lutterworth so powerfully befriended than at the tumult which their entrance had created—"if I had known what masteries you would have kept in the church, I would have stopped you from coming in hither." "He shall keep such masteries," said John of Gaunt, gruffly, "though you say nay." "Sit down, Wicliffe," said Percy, having but scant reverence for a court which owed its authority to a foreign power—"sit down; you have many things to answer to, and have need to repose yourself on a soft seat." "He must and shall stand," said Courtenay, still more chafed; "it is unreasonable that one on his trial before his ordinary should sit." "Lord Percy's proposal is but reasonable," interposed the Duke of Lancaster; "and as for you," said he, addressing Bishop Courtenay, "who are grown so arrogant and proud, I will bring down the pride not of you alone, but that of all the prelacy in England." To this menace the bishop calmly replied "that his trust was in no friend on earth, but in God." This answer but the more inflamed the anger of the duke, and the altercation became yet warmer, till at last John of Gaunt was heard to say that "rather than take such words from the bishop he would drag him out of the court by the hair of the head." It is hard to say what the strife between the duke and the bishop might have grown to, had not other parties suddenly