

THE CLEMATIS.

Our readers are doubtless already acquainted with the beautiful Clematis Jackmanni, and if so they will be much pleased to receive a colored plate of it, such as the one that is presented to them in this number. Of all the seedlings that have been raised by hybridizers of this flower we know of none so popular as the one that is here represented. And it deserves its popularity. It has a good constitution, consequently it does not require to be constantly nursed to keep it alive. It is naturally a vigorous grower, having an excellent appetite, hence, if sufficiently supplied with food it will take care of itself. It is also a profuse bloomer. The flowers too are large and showy, and being produced on the wood of the current season's growth, it matters not if the growth of the last season is killed to the ground.

It was about the year 1868 that our Jackman's Clematis was introduced to the attention of florists. Years before, Mr. Robert Fortune had sent to England from China the mauve colored Clematis Lanuginosa. It made quite a sensation when it first flowered in England, but although it produced flowers

of noble size, measuring from five to seven inches in diameter, yet these were put forth so sparingly, that cultivators soon tired of growing a plant that responded so charily to their most assiduous attentions. Besides it was not sufficiently hardy for general open air cultivation, and in consequence of these defects it had fallen into neglect.

Clematis viticella, introduced from Spain in 1569, had been long in cultivation, and although its flowers were small in comparison with those of *C. lanuginosa*, yet its constitutional vigor was all that could be desired. Happily it occurred to Mr. Jackman to try the experiment of crossing these two species. He chose a variety of *C. viticella* which had dark reddish purple flowers, and with the pollen from these flowers hybridized the large flowering *C. lanuginosa*. In this manner he produced a quantity of seedlings, from which he selected a few having the vigorous hardy wiry free flowering habit of *C. viticella* with the large flower of *C. lanuginosa*. Of these *C. Jackmanni* is the most valuable that has come under the writer's notice, and although, since that time, a great many hybrid seedlings have