

light appears in the shape of lightning. And the first observation it appears has been made by Linnaeus's own daughter, Elizabeth Christine, who found that one evening in the year 1762 the orange flowers of *Tropeolum majus* produced a kind of lightning; that is, the flowers seemed by fits and starts to dash light. She ran to her father, not believing her own eyes; but the phenomenon had disappeared when the father came, and what he had never seen or heard of he would not believe in till he had seen it himself. On subsequent evenings, however, he himself witnessed the fact, whereupon he asked his daughter to make a report of it to the Royal Academy of Sciences. This report has been accepted, and exists on the record. We are sorry that we have to add that neither the great Linnaeus, nor his daughter nor Linnaeus's son, nor any one of a great many chemists and botanists who undertook to study the matter, could to this day succeed in telling us anything better than suppositions, which were hardly uttered before upset by themselves, and amounted to nothing. If the stirring-up of observations, the reiteration of facts, the discussion of probabilities, can ultimately lead the investigating mind to the

true cause, then there is hope for our enlightenment. But as we doubt that, and will weary our readers, we will, before we close this article, tell them that electricity is not to have anything to do with these phenomena; that orange colour of high intensity and fire seems to have a good deal to do with it; that weak eyesight does not do it, as Linnaeus naively says, and that his daughter, Lector Haggren (all Swede) noticed it in the year 1788 on *Cedula officinalis*, *Lilium bulbiferum*, *Tagetes patula* and *erecta*, also, but slightly, on the orange variety of the flower, *Helianthus annuus*. Lastly comes Fries, and tells us that he was induced to write his essay on light in plants by once walking about in the botanical garden (Upsala) and seeing lightning shooting up from an isolated growing plant of *Papaver orientale*, strangely enough after having passed a large group of them without seeing anything that he then led other persons past who not know of it, and that he then began to study the light in plants. May he be able to enrich science with the knowledge of its causes.—*Gardener's Monthly*.



The Hyacinth.

BY MR. WM. PAUL, NURSERY, WALTHAM CROSS.

Of the many candidates for popular support in the present extended list of garden favorites there are few receiving more attention at the present time than the Hyacinth. Its beauty, fragrance, and variety are so many points of attraction, and the season at which it blooms is worthy of especial consideration. By the appearance of the Hyacinth winter is driven from

its last strongholds, and the garden suddenly rejoices in all the brilliancy of a summer party. Then the plant is of such easy culture, that the highest attainments in the art may be reserved for the patient exercise of skill and industry; the "prentice hand" in gardening may reasonably expect to attain to fair and satisfactory results. In a word, the plant is more manageable than many of its companions, and hence it is less fear of failure from the oversight of an amateur, those little kindnesses and attentions which a skilled horticulturist knows so well when