

Baptist, and are reported to appear always on the day of St. John's being beheaded (August 29th).

And so much for this common, but interesting little plant, whose golden blossoms enliven our grassy banks and shady lanes often till far on in September.

POST OFFICE.

JOHN TIMBS.

THE General Post Office, London, has had five locations since the Postmaster to Charles I. fixed his receiving-house in Sherborne-lane, in 1635, whence dates "the settling of the letter office of England and Scotland." The office was next removed to Cloak-lane, Dowgate; and then to Black Swan, Bishopsgate-street. After the Great Fire, the office was shifted to the Black Pillars, in Brydges-street, Covent-garden; thence early in the last century, to the mansion of Sir Robert Viner (close to Sherborne-lane), in Lombard-street; and the chief office to St. Martin's-le-Grand in 1829.

The General Post-office occupies the site of the College of St. Martin's-le-Grand, at the junction with Newgate-street. It was designed by Sir R. Smirke, R. A., and was built between 1825 and 1829: it is insulated, and is externally of Portland stone; four hundred feet long, one hundred and thirty wide, and sixty-four high. It stands in the three parishes of St. Ann and St. Agnes, St. Leonard, and St. Micheal-le-quern; and one hundred and thirty-one houses and nearly one thousand inhabitants were displaced to make room for this single edifice. Several Roman remains were found during the progress of the work. The St. Martin's-le-Grand facade has three Ionic porticoes: one at each end, tetrastyle, of four fluted columns; and one in the centre, hexastyle, of six columns (from the temple of Minerva Polias, at Athens); it is surmounted by a pediment, in the tympanum of which are sculptured the imperial arms of the United Kingdom; and on the frieze is inscribed, "GEORGIO QUARTO REGE, MDCCCXXIX." Beneath are entrances to the Grand Public Hall eighty feet long by about sixty wide, divided by Ionic columns into a centre and two aisles; and in the vaulted basement are the warm-air apparatus and gasometers. North of the Hall are the offices for newspapers, inland letters, and foreign letters; south are the offices of the London local post; the communication being by a tunnel and railway under the Hall floor. In the middle story north are the offices for dead, mis-sent, and returned letters; south, secretary's offices, board-rooms, &c. The clock, over the principal entrance, was made by Vulliamy; the bob of the pendulum weighs four