



three quarters of an inch long. The colors of the lily are white and pink, the outer rows of petals being white, and the inner a rich pink. The entire flower is from nine inches to a foot in diameter; it is of short duration, opening only on two successive evenings; but there is a constant display of flowers throughout the season. The petals always open early in the evening, and partially close about midnight. During the day-time, therefore, the *Victoria Regia* is seldom seen in its fullest splendor, unless when removed from the parent stem.

If the development of the leaves presents such a singular appearance, the successive changes in the flower, are not less extraordinary, and are far more beautiful. The crimson bud, which for several days, has been seen rising, at last reaches the surface of the water, and throws off its external investment in the evening. Soon after which, the flower petals suddenly unfold, the expanded blossom, like a mammoth magnolia, floating upon the surface of the water, decked in virgin white, and exhaling a powerful and peculiar fragrance, which has been