

with varieties - Bridg, Miss Foster, Mrs. White, Arnold's Virgin Queen, Comtesse Bresson, Princess Matilda. Best specimens by Thos. Buchanan and W. Chapman. Best four fancy Geraniums, Hugh Shaw, (varieties—Evening Star, Acma, Queen of the Valley, Mrs. Allan); 2nd do., R. Murray, (varieties—Itloniskii, Louisa de Belmont, John's Improved, Mrs. Allan. Special prize in this class, Thos. Buchanan, with Acma, Formosum Negro, Mrs. Black, Modestium, Calaban. Best four Scarlet Geraniums, Wm. Chapman. Best specimen, Wm. Chapman; 2nd do., R. Murray. Extra to Wm. Chapman for a pyramidal oak-leaved Geranium. The plant small, but in good taste. Best Pot Roses, R. Murray. Best hardy Shrubs, John Freed. Best Tulips, Bruce and Murray. The successful competitors in the amateur Floral department were George Carlyle, W. Michael, Thos. Smith, and John Weatherston. Ladies' department, Mrs. C. Lee.

Successful in the Fruit department, Wm. Chapman, Thos. Lottridge, Adolphus Case, John Stabins, Thos. Buchanan, and H. Colbeck, Esq.

The successful competitors in the Vegetable department were Wm. Jones, gardener to P. Grant, Esq., for the best Asparagus; Wm. Hill, for the best Early Cabbage; Hugh Shaw, for the best Seedling Onions; James Goy and S. Singfield, for Onions of 1862; Jas. Wilds, for Curled Parsley; Early Potatoes, Wm. Hill and Singfield; Radishes, J. Wilds and T. Buchanan; Rhubarb, J. Wildes, J. Freed, and Wm. Harris; Sea Kale, W. Hill and Wm. Chapman. Mushrooms, T. C. Fearnside.

Amongst the extra prizes awarded was one to Anthony Copp, in this City, for a very handsome Aquarium, which attracted much attention; and one to John Weatherstone for a collection of Daisies. GEORGE LAING.

Hamilton, 2nd June, 1863.

THE CURCULIO.

The *Rhynchænus nenuphar*—"Plum Weevil." This is the renowned "Curculio," of which so much has been said, surmised, and written; whose fame is as illy deserved as that of many heroines embalmed in history. It belongs to the *Coileoptera* order—the large family of weevils—the second division, *Rhynchæus*. This family is divided into three great divisions, *Curculio*, *Rhynchæus*, and *Callantra*, by Linnæus, with innumerable genera and sub genera. This insect belongs to the genus *Conotrachelus*. It is a native of this country, and was first described by Herbert, in 1797. It has a number of synonyms. It is a small dark, rough beetle resembling a withered bud. When you touch it it draws up its legs, presses its long antennæ and snout close against its breast, and feigns death for any length of time.

When the mother beetle is prepared to deposit her eggs, she places herself on the plum, and with her strong proboscis cuts across the lower end, which is always softer than towards the stem. It has been for me many years of investigation whether she could do this: it was impossible, for the brittle muzzle must inevitably snap off at the head in the effort of cutting the skin of a fruit which I could with difficulty indent with the strong nail of my thumb. I could not relinquish my supposition that it was performed with some sharp instrument at the end of the abdomen. But time and perseverance convinced me of my error, and I was both delighted and amazed when I found how beautiful her means are adapted to the end she has in view. At the extremity of the proboscis are two small sharp teeth of horn. You perceive how elbowed the antennæ are, the long joints of which reach two small punctures near the eyes at the very top of the proboscis. When she is preparing to cut the skin the joints of the antennæ are placed in these sockets, which strengthen and guide the proboscis as its teeth force upon the skin, giving it the needful purchase. This accomplished, she turns round and widens it with two small plates at the end of the abdomen, and with their aid deposits a single egg, drawing the skin back over it, and the wound in a day or so is healed. A hole is made at the end of the cut to allow evaporation to take place around the egg, or the young worm would, when so very tender, be drowned or suffocated. This proboscis, when the insect is just dead, placed under a magnifier, shows one of the most marvelous complications of nerves, turning, twisting, and communicating with each other all the way up, until they are lost in three large main arteries which go through the whole body. As soon as the egg is hatched the worm works into the fruit, destroying it completely in time. It is a small white, footless grub, with a strong brown horny head. When ready to transform, the plum generally falls to the ground, and the worm issues from the same path it made and enters the earth, where it rolls itself into an oval, making a loose pupa-case, a few grains of sand adhering to the coarse thread or paste it places around the limbs. It is a singular chrysalis, imbedded in sand, on one side, resembling grains of mouldy rice on the bark. Then if she accomplished this her larva would starve as its jaws are feeble, scarcely able upper, and can easily be detected reposing as close as possible to the main roots of the plum tree. If you turn up the soil carefully a few inches, you can relieve the tree of hundreds of this fruit-destroyer.

Often the plum does not fall, and the worm comes from it on the tree. In wandering along it must assuredly meet with some of those black, grainy warts made on this tree by insects belonging to the *Hymenoptera* order, *Gallicolæ* family (gall insects.) Here it often