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THE citizens of Halifax are looking forward with interest to the conversion of the Horticultural Garden, with its nursery grounds, cabbage beds and gooseberry brakes, into a Public Pleasure Garden, where citizens may, in some measure, realize the great public benefit of such an Institution. Several suggestions have been made through the public prints. In a recent letter to the *Morning Chronicle*, Peter Jack, Esq., an Amateur Horticulturist, of some experience, advocates the scheme of a Botanic Garden of Hardy Plants. The forcible arguments that we see for this are three in number. In the first place, Hardy Flowering Plants, Shrubs and Trees, that remain in the ground from year to year, are not a tithe of the expense of fashionable bedding plants. Secondly, they fill a garden with foliage, flowers and fragrance early in the season when we value flowers most. Thirdly, by throwing them into geographical or botanical groups, they become available to visitors, old and young, as an agreeable source of information. In arguing for Hardy Plants, it may seem that we are opposing the interests of Nurserymen and Seedsmen. There cannot be a greater mistake. One use of a Public Garden is to encourage floral and horticultural tastes among the citizens generally, and the prudent management of our Garden will certainly lead to an immense development of the trade in

flowers and plants and seeds. To succeed, it must be managed economically. Should extravagant bills for plants come before the City Council, the Garden will soon lose its fragrance. Let the citizens look upon the Public Garden as the proper receptacle for all their spare plants, when their gardens become overcrowded, let lists of donations be published every week in the newspapers to keep the matter before the public, let exchanges be made with foreign gardens, and very soon we shall have, with but little expenditure of money, a collection that will be a credit to the city, and an object of interest to be sought out by every stranger who lands on our wharves.

WE recently had the privilege of visiting the Conservatory at Oakland, the residence of the Hon'ble P. Carteret Hill, Provincial Secretary, and were much pleased with the really effective display of plants in flower. There were some very fine Azaleas, an orange tree completely covered with its fragrant bridal blossoms, and many other plants of interest and beauty, camellias, cyrtisus, hyacinths, primulas, &c., such as are used for conservatory decoration at this dull season of the year. But the most remarkable plant, in a botanical point of view, was one that we had never seen before, and that has flowered this season for the first time, although now some five or six years old. It is an amaryllidaceous

plant, belonging to the same natural order as the amaryllis, pancratium and narcissus. It is aptly likened by Mr. Hill to the Lily of the Valley, to which it is similarly allied; but the proportions of its blooms are gigantic when compared with that plant. The Oakland amaryl may be described as consisting of a mass of large broad parallel-veined leaves, of an oblong or ovate form, pointed at the apex, from amid which rises the peduncle, bearing a graceful cluster of large drooping open bell-like flowers of the purest white. There is a double perianth of six petals resembling those of the white or poet's narcissus, but larger and more compact, of firmer texture, and of a more delicate white. Inside this perianth there is a large campanulate corona, also white, and the most singular structural feature of the flower is that the stamens are adherent to the corona, forming, as it were, the vestige of a yellow fringe around its margin. The plant is a native of tropical America; it was first carried to England from the palmy banks of the Amazon in 1864, and named *Eucharis Amazonica*. We are glad it has flowered so well at Oakland, and, as the plant there is a strong and healthy one, it may now enliven the conservatory by an annual crop of blossoms.

WE hope that some of our Colchester readers will take the hint given by our correspondent I. L., and send us, for publication, their experiences of Churns, es-