

the plant, which, under fair cultivation, will be strong enough to make a live stake two feet high to tie the parent plant to. At this stage the plant should be shifted to a larger pot, when the natural stake will send out branches and prepare to flower. In the meantime the old wood has been in bloom. In August or September the plant will make a special effort and come out in "great glory." As this season approaches, a little weak liquid manure, given once or twice a week will greatly add to the beauty of the flowers and foliage.

As the plant increases in age, the annual shoots increase in size till at 5 or 6 years, the plant forms a grand clump or specimen plant 5 to 10 feet high, loaded with great trusses of bloom. Most Begonias require much shade, heat and moisture, but the Rubra is happy in sunshine, and does not murmur if the thermometer occasionally drops to 35° in winter, or goes up to 110° in summer. It positively refuses to harbour any vermin, and has no home on its shiny leaves for dust.

Strange you seldom see this grand plant decorating the verandah, or, as it should do, standing majestically among our noblest window plants. If any of the members of our society have not yet grown this plant, I advise them to commence at once.

21st March, 1887.

**A MARVELLOUS HYACINTH.** — SIR: — Talking about success and failure in Hyacinth growing, many will be surprised to learn that in Toronto a lady has grown four distinct stems of Hyacinth from one bulb, all in bloom at one time and a perfect marvel of splendid growth. The flower stems were all of a size and beautiful pink; variety, Lord Wellington. This beats anything ever seen in Hyacinth growing so far.

Can any one of your readers say to the contrary?

Yours truly,  
ANTON SIMMERS.

Toronto, Feb. 21st, '87.

THE LIGHT from an electric lamp tower at Davenport, falls full upon a flower garden about 100 feet away, and during last Summer the owner observed that lilies which usually bloom only in the day opened in the night, and that morning-glories unclosed their blossoms as soon as the electric light fell on them. It has frequently been observed that trees were most exuberant in their foliage on the side nearest the electric light.

## Biographical.



CHARLES DOWNING, THE MAN OF LETTERS,  
THE SUCCESSFUL FRUIT GROWER AND  
THE VENERABLE HISTORIAN.

WRITTEN FOR THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST BY  
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As the well tried leaders of society and public thought one by one pass away from our midst, and the tired veterans are quietly laid away to their rest, it plainly becomes our privilege and duty to take note for future reference or reminder. In some cases the material for note-taking is very plentiful, but in other cases, like the present,