

HERACLEUM GIGANTEUM.



FIG. 1406.—HERACLEUM GIGANTEUM.

COMPLYING with the request of several members of the Horticultural Society here, and Chief Gardener Cameron of the N. F. Park, I enclose to you a "Photo." of a very attractive *Herbaceous Plant* now flourishing in front of "All Saints' Church" Sunday School House.

The seed of the plant was brought by Mrs. Bull about seven years ago from Shropshire, England, where she had noticed it growing vigorously on grounds attached to the residence of a relative. The plant which we have now has been slow in its first stages of growth, but since last spring its growth has been surprising; the measurement is correctly given in Mr. Cameron's account.

GEO. A. BULL.

Niagara Falls South, Ont.,
July 5th, 1898.

I also enclose Mr. Cameron's note, as follows:—

Heracleum Giganteum, the old Greek name of the plant; so called in honour of Heracles or Hercules. Cow Parsley; or Cow Parsnip. Umbelliferæ, or Parsley Family. A genus comprising about seventy species of strong coarse-growing hardy biennial or perennial herbs, from the mountains of Central and Southern Europe and especially Asia, with a single North America variety; flowers white, the petals of the outer ones of each umbel larger. Leaves dissected with large segments, although long known to cultivation. Heracleums are not possessed of any great special recommendations. They are best adapted for growing in shrubberies, rough parts of pleasure grounds or on the margins of water, being too coarse for the flower garden. They succeed in any kind of soil. Increased by seeds or by divisions. The specimen before us is a noble looking plant, tropical in appearance, with its large white umbels many rayed pinnatifid, deeply toothed. Stem eight feet high; length of leaf from the stem, five feet four and a half inches; width of leaf, three feet nine inches; width of plant, eight feet ten inches; circumference of stem at base, ten inches; circumference plant around the tips of the leaves at the base of the plant, twenty-seven feet.

This species named above first came from the Caucasus to England in 1820, where it has of late years been very extensively cultivated on account of its large size and commanding appearance.

RODERICK CAMERON.