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THE CLEMATIS.

This interesting and valuable genus of climbing plants is attracting much attention both in Europe and America. As the result of careful cultivation and the crossing of different species we have now some very beautiful and showy varieties. These plants belong to the natural order Crowfoots (Ranunculaceæ), and are characterized by a valvate coloured calyx, and by having the carpels when ripe terminated by long, feathery styles. In some of the species the flowers are not as attractive as the seed vessels are when plumed with their long feathery styles. In England the most common species is known as the Traveller's Joy, *Clematis vitalba*, which runs over the hedges in some parts of the country, covering them with a profusion of white blossoms, to be succeeded by heaps of silky tufts. Some of the species are fragrant. The one known as *Clematis flammula*, a native of France, is exceedingly rich in perfume. Until within a few years the Clematis were chiefly used to cover unsightly objects, though occasionally *C. viticella*, a purple flowering species introduced into England from Spain, was used as an ornamental climber. In the year 1851 a large flowered vari-

ety, known as *C. lanuginosa* was brought from China, about fifteen years after, some English gardeners, notably Mr. Jackman of the Woking nurseries, conceived the idea of crossing these two last named species. The result of this crossing has been the production of a race of hardy, free flowering Clematis, with large, showy flowers, which make a grand display either as climbers upon pillars or lattice, or trained upon the ground as bedders. These beautiful flowers are mainly of two colours, purple and white, of various degrees of intensity and purity. The only variety approaching a red is of a dirty brick-red hue, by no means satisfactory to the ornamental gardener.

In the variety (*Clematis coccinea*) now presented to the notice of our readers in the beautiful colored plate which adorns this number, and for which we are indebted to the liberality of Messrs. V. H. Hallock, Son & Thorpe, of Queens, N. Y., we have a very different type of flower, quite unlike the broad-petaled, showy blossoms of the Jackman group, but giving us that much-coveted, brilliant, scarlet color so entirely wanting in those hybrids. It is not necessary to give any description