



ACROCLINUM, (ROSEUM—NEW DOUBLE.)

SEEDLINGS.

A famous botanist tells us that it is no uncommon thing to find two thousand grains on a single plant of maize—sprung from one seed—four thousand seeds in one sunflower, thirty-two thousand on a single poppy plant, and thirty-six thousand on one plant of tobacco.

Pliny, the historian, relates that a Roman governor in Africa sent to the Emperor Augustus a single plant of corn with three hundred and forty stems, bearing three hundred and forty ears,—so that at least sixty thousand grains of corn were produced from a single seed.

In more modern times twelve thousand seven hundred and eighty grains have been grown on one stalk of the famous corn of Smyrna.

It was once calculated that in eight years as much corn might be grown from one seed as to supply all mankind with bread for a year and a half.

“Flowers were not merely a luxury to the Grecians, but they were considered absolutely necessary. Flowers, that lovely part of the creation, that serve the very pledges of the father’s love, have indeed been associated with the most striking events of life; they are woven into garlands for the happy and prosperous; they are strewn upon the grave of the beloved, the offering alike of joy and sorrow.”

THORNS AND ROSES.

From morn till night John’s hammer rang,
The tale of labor telling;
But oft he marked, with envious eye,
Squire Hardy’s cozy dwelling.
One day the Squire himself came by:
“My horse has lost a shoe, John,
And that’s the least of all my cares;
But cares don’t come to you, John.
The lightning struck my barns last night;
My child near death is laid, John.
No! life is not what folks suppose—
’Tis not of roses made, John.”

And then the Squire rode sadly off.
John watched him in amazement.
And, as he watched, two faces bright
Peeped from the open casement.
He heard his wife’s voice, sweet and low,
His baby’s merry laughter;
John gave his anvil such a blow,
It shook each smoky rafter.
“I would not change with Squire,” said he,
“For all his land and money:
There’s thorns for him as well as me,
But not such roses bonny!”

PETUNIAS AS WINDOW PLANTS.

These make excellent window plants and are very showy, especially the flaked varieties, both single and double. To have them stoutly and short jointed they should be grown out-of-doors, fully exposed to the sun, and be stopped frequently to induce them to form bushy plants. When grown under glass, the stems become drawn, which they likewise do in the green-house while producing their blooms. To obviate this as much as possible, they should be placed in light, airy positions, where they only get a small amount of shade, if any at all. By cutting back any that have become straggling and drawn, and replacing them out in the open air, they soon break again, and flower with great freedom, so that a constant supply may be kept up by growing a few plants, and treating them in this way. While out-of-doors, the pots should be plunged, so as to prevent the sun from drying the roots.—*Gardening Illustrated.*

TROPICAL VEGETATION IN FLORIDA.

A lady in Lake City, Fla., has growing in her garden a genuine cork-tree thirty feet high, the bark on which is sufficiently thick to make bottle-corks. There is also in the same garden a genuine black pepper bush, which yields regularly a full crop of berries.