

GROWING THE ORCHID

The Delicate Tropical Flower Cultivated in This Climate.

THE PRICE IS VERY MUCH CHEAPER

Perils in Hunting for the Plant in South American Forests.

THE ROUGH EXPERIENCE OF MR. GRAY

Orchids were used lavishly in the decorations of the Duquesne Club House at their initial reception, and in such great profusion at the Beggs-Sproul wedding last week, that the writer concluded they must be cultivated much more extensively than formerly, or the continually increasing demand for them could not be filled.

The cultivation of the orchid is so largely indulged in at the present time that the fancy prices for which they were so justly noted have become a thing of the past, and they are worth no more now than fine roses. Their popularity is on the increase, and self-satisfied is the belle who can traverse Fifth avenue with a handsome spray of the delicate blossom adorning the front of her sea-king.

In the search for knowledge regarding the orchid an interview was obtained with the native hunter, who is familiar with the South American quest of the choice plants. In his own words the story of his experiences and travels is as follows:

Sailed from New York on the steamer Almas of the Atlas line, a voyage of 15 days brought us to Barranquilla, at the mouth of the Magdalena river in Colombia.

There we equipped ourselves with the dress of the native, viz. a large sombrero hat, a rajuca, which is a sort of a cape of light material with a wide collar, and a pair of trousers which consisted of two pieces of raw hide sewed together and fastened at the ends with buttons and the pantaloons and protect the clothing when going through the brush.

Heavy rain was reaching to the hips, for we were in swamps, we were secured, and we were ready to ascend the river. A line of steamers built by an old Pittsburgher, Captain James Ross, runs from that point to Honda, a distance of 600 miles.

The journey up the river was a very interesting one. The banks were lined with the native flowers, and a pair of monkeys, parrots and the little green parakeets, the former keeping up a constant jabbering and snapping of twigs. The boat would stop each day to take on wood, which was gathered by the natives and exchanged for provisions. While taking on wood we would go on shore on a search for orchids, but the natives lived with their bows and arrows and were ready to defend themselves.

My first find was a large vanilla orchid growing on an old stump, but being the common vanilla of commerce, it was of no value to us. On another occasion I came upon a large mass of the white flowered orchid Brasavola, clinging to an old tree, but in our haste to bring it down, which we did with a forked branch, we brought down upon our heads a swarm of bees. We thanked the stars for wide-brimmed hats. From the forest we returned with a sack covered with wood ticks, bites of the sand fly and worst of all the muchie fly, mosquito.

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IT WILL BE A BROAD GAUGE.

A Syndicate to Build a Road Around Neville Island Connecting With the Lake Erie Extension on the Land From \$500 to \$1,000 per acre.

THEY WON'T PULL OUT

The Allegheny Light Company Will Make Room for the Strikers.

INCREASING THE FEDERATION.

Wagon, Carriage Makers and the Musical Union Will Join Them.

OTHER GENERAL INDUSTRIAL NEWS

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GREENS ON WARD STREET.

Fourteenth Ward People Will Appeal to the Board of Viewers.

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MANY FLIMSY HOUSES.

The Assistant Inspector Says They Ought to be Torn Down.

SOME LEGISLATION IS NEEDED.

Old Jackson Buildings at the Point and Along Water Street.

NO AUTHORITY TO CORRECT THE OWNERS

Since the city has stood the siege of a very high wind within the last few weeks with out losing anything beyond a few chimneys, the question has been raised, How many slim or insecure buildings are at present in the city? Assistant Building Inspector J. A. A. Brown was questioned on the subject yesterday, and said regarding it: "Yes, there are many insecure buildings in the city. I should say hundreds. They are distributed all over the older portions of the city, and although there is no immediate danger to life or adjacent property it is only a question of time when these buildings will crumble and fall. I am quite sure that none of the recently-erected buildings are of the flimsy or Buddenstiek order of architecture, for a close watch has been kept upon all recent construction, and they are all in line with the provisions for public safety made in this bureau."

OLD JACKSON HOUSES.

Now, in the Point district there is a number of old Jackson frame houses, which have been standing for many years. They are a city, and they are gradually settling down, which may occasion the proprietors to have settling up with the heirs and survivors of any accident which might occur. There are undoubtedly a great many buildings in the city which should come down. There is nothing to be gained by their standing out beyond the Baltimore, Md. Ohio depot. It is full of old buildings which have no right to stand under the present order of things.

"Why do you not order them taken down?" "There is the great difficulty. The powers of the Building department are not sufficient to cover their full duty to the community. We cannot in many cases reach the heirs of the old estates, who are living out of the city, and who have derived from the rents of ramshackle buildings."

LEGISLATION NEEDED.

"It needs further legislative action to correct the proper powers on the Building Inspectors. As it is, all we can do is to act on the flimsy buildings. Just as we regard their lives or property in danger from insecure buildings. We then, under the present act and ordinance, notify the owner, and if he does not repair them, we have five days' grace in which to apply, as in the case of the Baltimore and Ohio building, on the corner of Fifth avenue and Water street, and they are not to be repaired. If the appeal is made. If no appeal comes in, we turn the case over to the Department of Public Works, which in turn has the authority to order the tearing of the buildings down. Our authority is so exceedingly limited that our hands are virtually tied on these old buildings."

"The flimsy buildings are a source of buildings in this city which ought to come down, but are held up more by red tape than by proper foundations of a secure structure which might occur. There are undoubtedly a great many buildings in the city which should come down. There is nothing to be gained by their standing out beyond the Baltimore, Md. Ohio depot. It is full of old buildings which have no right to stand under the present order of things."

A FLOWER THAT FADED.

Either Rough Experience of a Woman in Search of Her Husband—She Failed to Appear in Court—No Money to Pay Her Car Fare—In Charge of Her Deeds. A young woman barely out of her teens, named Mary Jane Flower, told a pitiful story in Alderman P. B. Reilly's office yesterday. She stated that a few months ago she married a man named Edward J. Flower, of Mansfield, Ohio, and that some busy-bodies having interfered in their domestic arrangements caused Benjamin to desert her. Though not feeling well Mrs. Flower stated that she went to work in a restaurant and remained there until unable longer to perform the service required, when she was forced to take refuge in the County House.

At length it was suggested to her that her husband ought to take care of her, and she was advised to inform the police of his desertion. Mrs. Flower is not a woman of varied experience of the world, and was left an orphan at an early age to paddle her own canoe in the world, and she was somewhat circumscribed. In consequence she knew but little of legal matters, nor could she recollect the name of the magistrate who made the informal decision in her case. She had no money, and the County House would arrange for passage on the train free, or the Superintendent of the County House would arrange for passage, or something else; she seemed somewhat at a loss as to what to do.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Flower appeared at the station, but the conductor had not been informed of any arrangement for transportation, and she was left to her own devices. She was determined to get into court and so concluded to walk. She got to the Court House during the afternoon, but all of her money was that which she had carried, and someone directed her to Alderman Reilly's office.

Mr. Reilly sent a messenger to the jail, and was furnished with the information that Mr. Flower was not there, and further, that he had not left his address. No one appearing against him the Court did not take cognizance of the allegations,