

Home of the Easter Lily

There is only one monument in the whole British colony of the Bermudas—and it is erected to the memory of an American. This fact may seem a bit strange until one has heard the story, which is really a story of the Bermuda lily, and of the man who made it possible.

Many years ago—during President Hayes' administration, in fact—Gen. Russel Hastings, who had made for himself a brilliant record during the civil war, was married in the White House at Washington. He and his bride went to Bermuda on their wedding trip, and were so charmed with the beauty of the place that they resolved then and there to return, and, if possible, to make it their permanent abode. The climate, too, appealing to them. (The general had been seriously wounded in the war, and was far from well.)

A little later the two came again. Not as tourists this time, but as homeseekers. In those days the now-existing law that none but English citizens can own land in English colonies was not in force. So General Hastings had no difficulty in acquiring a large estate. He chose a picturesque site in the little city of Hamilton, surrounding a land-locked bay. Here he built his home, "Sonet," which stands to-day among tropical trees and luxuriant flowers.

Not only did General Hastings at once become deeply interested in the place, and in the possibilities for its development, but he was genuinely distressed at the poverty of the islanders, says a writer in the Detroit Free Press. Setting about to improve matters, he studied the climatic conditions, experimented again and again, and at length his efforts were crowned with success. It was found that our present-day Easter lily, originally a native of Japan, would attain in Bermuda to a perfection of loveliness hitherto unknown. The islanders were soon pressed into service, and since about 1876 the culture of lilies has been not only their chief pride, but their chief means of livelihood as well.

Imagine a tiny group of islands, far out in the Atlantic—the largest of them about 15 miles long and not wider, at most, than a mile and a half—set beneath the bluest of blue skies, and seeming to rest on water whose transparency and brilliancy of color are unequalled anywhere. This is Bermuda, the home of the Easter lily.

As the incoming boat skirts the shore, the lily fields look from a distance like white summer clouds dropped down from the sky upon the green islands. Lily fragrance fills the air and is blown by the wind far out over the water. Coming nearer you see the fields more clearly—rows upon rows of blossoms, tall, stately and snowy white. It is very beautiful.

It was not until the early 80's that the Bermuda lily became well known in the United States. It is said that a Philadelphia woman, returning from the islands, brought home a plant to bloom. This came to the attention of W. K. Harris, an enterprising florist of the Quaker city, who purchased a lot of the bulbs, from which he succeeded in raising hundreds of plants, introducing them under the name *Lilium Harrisii*. Thus the Easter lily industry spread to America, and to other countries as well. But nowhere do the flowers grow so perfect and beautiful as under the quickening warmth of the tropical sun of Bermuda.

Ordinarily only bulbs are exported, but at the rush season whole boat loads of cut buds and of thickly-budded plants are packed and shipped away, carrying the sweet message of the Eastertide into countless homes and churches.

General Hastings is dead. In spite of his long residence in Bermuda, he remained a devotedly loyal American citizen and from time to time concerned himself with public affairs, holding various

positions of responsibility and honor. The islanders remember him as their friend and benefactor, and that they and those that come after them may not be unmindful of the debt of gratitude they owe, a beautiful monument has been recently erected in Hamilton in his memory.

Derivation of "Faster"

Like many another term in Christian nomenclature, the word "Easter" is derived from pagan source. The Saxon goddess of light, "Easter," was honored with annual festival at the vernal equinox. The Jewish passover was also regulated by the March moon and the resurrection of Jesus occurred at this season. In later centuries the great Christian festival came to bear the pagan name "Easter" and to be celebrated at a time coincident with the Jewish feast.

Election Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That on Tuesday, the 16th day of April, 1907, at the Fire Department Building in the First Ward, at the store of H. M. Prior, on Sheridan Road, in Second Ward, at the store of D. C. Purdy & Sons, on St. Johns Avenue, in the Third Ward, at the store of Brand Brothers, in Fourth Ward, in the County of Lake, and State of Illinois, an Election will be held for Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, City Treasurer, one Alderman for the First Ward, one Alderman for the Second Ward, one Alderman for the Third Ward, and one Alderman for the Fourth Ward, which Election will be opened at 7 o'clock in the morning, and will continue open until 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Given under my hand at Highland Park, the 23rd day of March, A. D. 1907.

JOHN FINNEY,
City Clerk.

Illinois Inventors.

The following patents were issued this week to Illinois inventors reported by D. Swift & Co., Patent Lawyers, Washington D. C.

J. W. Bailey, Ottawa, Musical instrument. R. Bleitz Sandwich, Speed changing mechanism. A. N. Calkins, Quincy Gasoline engine truck. W. H. Donaldson, Joliet, Headlight operating device. R. W. Dull, Aurora, Sprocket chain. M. W. Heyenga, Hartsburg, Vehicle. E. C. Hodges, Bloomington, Building block. G. Holmes Danville, Automatic car lift. C. J. Koenig, Alton, Automatic glass gathering and blowing machine. J. O. Pettey, Belvidere, Machine for grooving needles. F. E. Sackett, Harvey, Elevated carrier. E. Schildback, Elmhurst, Windshield. J. A. Strom, Pullman, Expansion drum. V. Uedelhofen, Lakeside, Rail joint. E. Conklin, Channahon, Door check and tightener. J. H. Flora, Tunnel Hill, Pneumatic toy.

Copies of any of the above patents will be furnished to our readers at ten cents each, by D. Swift & Co., Washington, D. C., our special patent correspondents.

Explicit Instructions

As the St. Patrick's Day parade turned the corner an electric car came clanging down the street. The gallant captain knew that the proper maneuver under the circumstances was to "open order," but not knowing the exact word of command for the occasion, he turned to his followers and shouted in martial tones:

"Attention, men! Here comes the car-r! Company, shpht!"

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