

way and began to sport into those changes which now so delight us."¹⁸⁹ The flowers have been greatly modified in shape from a flat to a globular form. Anemone and ranunculus-like races,¹⁹⁰ which differ in the form and arrangement of the florets, have arisen; also dwarfed races, one of which is only eighteen inches in height. The seeds vary much in size. The petals are uniformly coloured or tipped or striped, and present an almost infinite diversity of tints. Seedlings of fourteen different colours¹⁹¹ have been raised from the same plant; yet, as Mr. Sabine has remarked, "many of the seedlings follow their parents in colour." The period of flowering has been considerably hastened, and this has probably been effected by continued selection. Salisbury, writing 1808, says that they then flowered from September to November; in 1828 some new dwarf varieties began flowering in June;¹⁹² and Mr. Grieve informs me that the dwarf purple Zelinda in his garden is in full bloom by the middle of June and sometimes even earlier. Slight constitutional differences have been observed between certain varieties: thus, some kinds succeed much better in one part of England than in another;¹⁹³ and it has been noticed that some varieties require much more moisture than others.¹⁹⁴

Such flowers as the carnation, common tulip, and hyacinth, which are believed to be descended, each from a single wild form, present innumerable varieties, differing almost exclusively in the size, form, and colour of the flowers. These and some other anciently cultivated plants which have been long propagated by offsets, pipings, bulbs, &c., become so excessively variable, that almost each new plant raised from seed forms a new variety, "all of which to describe particularly," as old Gerarde wrote in 1597, "were to roll Sisyphus's stone, or to number the sands."

Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis*).—It may, however, be worth while to give a short account of this plant, which was introduced into England in 1596 from the Levant.¹⁹⁵ The petals of the original flower, says Mr. Paul, were narrow, wrinkled, pointed, and of a flimsy texture; now they are broad, smooth, solid, and rounded. The erectness, breadth, and length of the whole spike, and the size of the flowers, have all increased. The colours have been intensified and diversified. Gerarde, in 1597, enumerates four, and Parkinson,

¹⁸⁹ 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. iii., 1820, p. 225.

¹⁹⁰ Loudon's 'Gardener's Mag.,' vol. vi., 1830, p. 77.

¹⁹¹ Loudon's 'Encyclop. of Gardening,' p. 1035.

¹⁹² 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. i. p. 91; and Loudon's 'Gardener's Mag.,' vol. iii., 1828, p. 179.

¹⁹³ Mr. Wildman, in 'Gardener's Chron.,' 1843, p. 87. 'Cottage Gardener,' April 8, 1856, p. 33.

¹⁹⁴ M. Faivre has given an interesting account of the successive variations of the Chinese primrose, since its introduction into Europe about the year 1820: 'Revue des Cours Scientifiques,' June, 1869, p. 428.

¹⁹⁵ The best and fullest account of this plant which I have met with is by a famous horticulturist, Mr. Paul, of Waltham, in the 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1864, p. 342.