An Essay on Roses

READ BEFORE THE MAINE POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION,
HELD AT GARDINER, MARCH 8 & 9, 1881.

REVISED AND ENLARGED FOR PUBLICATION.

BY MRS. M. D. WELLCOME

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An Essay on Roses,

HISTORICALLY AND DESCRIPTIVELY CONSIDERED.

CLASSIFICATION OF ROSES. WHAT ROSES TO PLANT. MODE OF
CULTURE. LIST OF BEST HYBRIDS. LIST OF BEST
EVER-BLOOMING.

BY MRS. M. D. WELLCOME,
"AUTHOR OF "TALKS ABOUT FLOWERS."
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The Rose.

Says Montaigne : " I have here made a nosegay of culled flowers , and have brought nothing of my own but the string that binds them ." So with me, I have brought you a bouquet of Roses, and there is little of my own but the string that binds them.

ROSES.

Their origin dates back to the first garden ever made in this world. The Lord God made it and planted it, not only with that which was "good for food," but also with what was "pleasant to the sight." Then he placed a man and a woman in it to take care of it. The man's work no doubt, was to take care of the fruit trees and the vegetables, the woman's work, to cultivate the beautiful flowers, Eve had no weeds to pull, and when she plucked a Rose, there were no thorns to pierce her fair hands ; for do we not read that thorns and thistles are the result of the curse pronounced after man had sinned ?

We find only two references in the Bible to the Rose ; one in Solomon's Song, where Christ is called the Rose of Sharon, and the other, a prophetic utterance of Isaiah "The desert shall blossom as the Rose."

Among the ancient Romans, Roses were held in very

high estimation, and were cultivated in great abundance. When Cleopatra went to Gilicia to meet Mark Antony, she caused the floor of the hall to be covered with Roses to the depth of eighteen inches.

Roses have garlanded the statues of the gods, decorated the festive hall, wreathed the brow of the bride, and shed their fragrance around the casket and o'er the grave of loved ones. They have also been the insignia of rival chiefs. The Duke of York in 1452, adopted the White Rose, while the Duke of Lancaster had a Red Rose emblazoned on his shield; and the Rose striped with red and white is even now called the York and Lancaster Rose.

Poets from early times have sung its praises :

“ Old HOMER praised its form of grace,
 CATALLOS boasted of its charms,
 HORACE its richly tinted face;
 In fair Italia's glowing words
 TASSO and METASTASIO sang;
 And 'mong the groves of far Cathay,
 The Persian HAFIS' accents rang.”

We have the following beautiful

LEGEND OF THE ROSE.

Flora, the queen of flowers, had a favorite nymph, whose purity of heart surpassed her beauty. When she died, Flora resolved to change this daughter of the dryads into a plant which should reign over all others. She called to her aid Venus, the Graces, Apollo, Bacchus and Pomona. The result of their combined efforts was the queen of flowers, the Rose. Still it was odorless. But one day Cupid, while dancing in Olympus, overthrew with his wing a cup of nectar. The precious liquid fell on the Rose, and gave it its perfume.

Florists have classified the varieties of Rose by reference to their origin, but while able to do this to a great extent, there have been so many crossings of species as to render it impossible always to do this with precision. One of the results of crossing the European kinds with the China Roses, has been the production of a class called

HYBRID PERPETUALS.

These are hardy, profuse in bloom, and the flowers are very large and beautiful. The term *perpetual*, however, is a misnomer, for they bloom only at intervals from June to November, many only in July and August, while comparatively few are autumnal.

Of the Hybrid Perpetuals, there are several hundred.

varieties, and fifty or more are annually added to the list with high-sounding names, glowing descriptions, and high prices attached. Some of them are of real value, others are nearly duplicates of older sorts, while many are almost worthless.

There are already "too many Roses," as the President of the Horticultural Society at Wittstock says, and his proposition to reduce the four or five thousand different varieties at present grown in the gardens, to a limited number of real valuable ones only, the names of which shall be published, is an admirable one. Mr. H. B. Ellwanger of Rochester, N. Y., who has made the Rose a speciality and a study for years, had already made a move in this direction, as is shown in his admirable paper on Hybrid Perpetuals, read before the N. Y. Horticultural Society, 1879, in reply to the question, "*What are the best hardy Roses for general cultivation?*"

He first gives those points which constitute a perfect Rose. 1st. Beauty of color. 2d. Beauty of form. 3d. Fragrance. 4th. Profusion and continuity of bloom. 5th. Vigor and healthfulness of growth. He gives a tabulation of those five qualities, assigning the following number of points to each: Color, 24; form, 22; fragrance, 20; freedom of bloom, 18; vigor and healthfulness of growth, 16; making a total of 100 points for each Rose. It is seen by the table that no Rose is perfect in all of the specified qualities, the choicest sorts excelling on some points, fall short on others. Of the 24 Roses selected from hundreds as possessing the best characteristics for general culture, we will give their names in due place.

HYBRID NOISETTE ROSES.

This is comparatively a new group which have been

usually classed with the Hybrid Perpetuals in order to avoid a multiplicity of groups. So many new varieties have been introduced, they are, in some Rose catalogues, now classed by themselves. They usually flower in clusters, and bloom very freely throughout the year; the flowers are not large, but generally well formed, and are for the most part white. These Roses must not be confounded with the Noisette or Champney Roses, which are not Hybrids, and only half-hardy. Of these an American correspondent of the *Belgian Horticultural Review* thus writes to the editor an account of their origin, which is thus translated:

“The Noisette Rose is a daughter of America. She was born one day in the garden of a brave citizen of Charleston, S. C., Mr. John Champney. It was obtained by fertilizing a Musk Rose, *Rosa Moschata*, by pollen from the China or Bengal Rose. Botanists called the new creation *Rosa Moschata Hybrida*, and *Rosa Champneyana* indifferently. But after a while the name was superseded by that of *Rosa Noisettiana* in this way: At Charleston there lived a gardener named Philip Noisette, who was of French origin. This man fertilized one of Champney’s Hybrids, Champney’s Pink Cluster, and getting from it another variety, sent it in 1814, to Louis Freres of Paris. The Rose became rapidly famous, and the name of Noisette replaced the first name of Champney, for the new race. It is as just, as it was when Americus Vesputius was given the honors due to Christopher Columbus in the naming of the great continent. The flowers of the Noisette are highly fragrant, they are numerous, double, and charm by the variety and delicacy of their colors.

The following varieties, esteemed in America, are worthy the attention of Europeans: Beauty of Green Mount, Isabella Gray, Dr. Kane, America, Woodland Margaret, Cinderella, Russulda. The Noisette has one defect; the flower fades rapidly, but then, what would we have if we had a choice?

These, by hybridization with the Teas, have lost much of their originality; they are less hardy, are not so clustering, but the flowers have more substance, and are far more beautiful. They are specially valuable as Climbing or Pillar Roses in sheltered situations, and particularly under glass. Of these are the well known and highly prized Lamarque, Cloth of Gold, and Marechal Niel.

HYBRID CHINA ROSES.

This class has been produced by various crosses of the summer Rose upon the Teas, Noisettes and Bourbons. They are hardy and have a glossy, luxuriant foliage. They are vigorous and rapid growers with long, flexible shoots, and are well adapted for Pillar Roses.

HYBRID CLIMBING ROSES.

This list is somewhat small, but embraces some very fine varieties, among them Fortune's Double Yellow, a Chinese variety introduced by Mr. Fortune in 1845. The Red Dragon is of recent introduction. One who saw it in W. Paul's collection at Regent Park, England, thus writes of it in a letter to Mr. Meehan, editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*:

"Of all the handsome varieties which were so well represented, the one that specially attracted my attention was the new climbing, hybrid perpetual Red Dragon. This fine variety originated among some seedlings in Messrs

Pauls' nurseries at Waltham Cross in 1875, and was admirably figured in the Rose Annuals for 1878-79. The flowers are of great substance, cupped, and of an intensely rich crimson color in a young state, becoming tinged with purple as they advance. The plant is extremely vigorous, with handsome foliage, and its habit renders it well adapted for training to pillars and similar positions."

HYBRID TEA ROSES.

These, ten in number, originated with Mr. Henry Ben net, of Mapleford, England, who has been experimenting on the Rose for fifteen years, trying to obtain some successful manner of artificial fertilization. After several years of failure, he visited in 1870 the Rose Nurseries of Lyons, which may truly be said to be the home of the Rose, but failed to detect any scientific means of raising Roses by an artificial process. Finding that the old methods were a failure, he cut loose from them all and tried an entirely new mode of culture, finding as he had anticipated, good seed could be produced. He says: "I met with many difficulties, but at last I succeeded in seedling from every Rose I tried, and did not fail in any variety I crossed, no matter how widely the sorts were separated. The Teas crossed freely with the Hybrid Perpetuals, and *vice versa*; the Mosses crossed freely with each kind.

"For my main experiment, I took my favorite Teas, 'Alba Rosea,' and 'President,' as seed-bearing plants, and from these I have selected the varieties I am now offering, excepting one, and it will be found that they possess greater perpetuity in blooming, greater depth of petal, and are altogether different in type to any Roses before seen. . . . I lay claim to the first real crimson Tea, the Duke of Connaught.

"I can guarantee the parentage of each variety. They are all real perpetuals (not in the same way as the common perpetuals, that give a lot of bloom in the first part of summer, and then only a few medium blooms now and then afterward), giving a regular and constant succession of flowers till the frost sets in. Not one of them has yet thrown a shoot that has not flowered; they have never been attacked with mildew or red rust, and resisted thirty degrees of frost last winter in a very open situation, without the slightest injury.

"The color of each variety is quite novel, unusually clear and bright; the blooms have great substance, and remain a long time without fading, and are grand exhibition flowers. I cannot help thinking this discovery will cause quite a revolution in Rose culture, and make us independent of the French raisers, who have for years been inundating us with so many very bad Roses, to the disgust of nearly every cultivator."

An appreciative horticulturist who has seen these new varieties, says: "For pot culture, either for home decoration or for market, these Roses will be invaluable. They are elegant in habit, hardy in constitution, most of them deliciously scented, perpetual and abundant bloomers."

In speaking of representing them by paintings, he says: "Some of the colors and shadings are so exquisite and unique, that it must be an impossibility to transfer them to paper."

The year 1879 will be memorable in the history of Roses as the one from which this new class is dated.

Having considered the various classes of Hybrids, we will now briefly glance at a few which are not Hybrids. Of these the

TEA ROSES

Decidedly take the lead among the ever blooming. They are so lovely in color, and so delicious in fragrance. How varied their tints! Their buds, how exquisite in form! These are the tender Roses, and need more care than any of the other classes.

BOURBON ROSES.

These are not quite hardy, but a slight protection is sufficient. They are ever-bloomers, their growth is rapid, and their foliage rich and luxuriant. They are the most beautiful in the autumn. The flowers are usually produced in clusters, are of a light color and fragrant. The latest novelties of this class are Queen of Bedders, sent out in 1877, color, crimson; Madame Pierre Oger of 1878,

"creamy white, the exterior petals marbled with soft rosy lilac."

CLIMBING ROSES.

Of these the *Prairie* Roses are the most commonly grown. *Baltimore Belle*, pale blush, very double, *Prairie Queen*, bright pink, and *Greville*, or *Seven Sisters*, are popular varieties. The *Ayrshire* and *Banksia* climbers are of a more slender growth and the flowers are of small size

MOSS ROSES.

Their origin is not known. A few facts only have we

been enabled to glean, and for these we are indebted to the *Journal of Horticulture*. Prior to 1724, no reference can be found to the Moss Rose, but Dr. Martin in his edition of Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary*, says it is in Furber's catalogue of 1724. Faulkner in his "History of Fulham," says that Mr. Rench was the first to introduce the Moss Rose into England, the original plant of which is supposed to have been brought from Holland. Rench lived at South Field Farm, near Parson's Green, a farm possessed by his ancestors for two hundred years. He was buried in Fulham church-yard, and the inscription to his memory reads thus: "Under this stone are deposited the remains of Nathaniel Rench, late of this parish, gardener, who departed this life Jan. 18th, 1783, aged 101 years.

The Moss Rose was first illustrated in the *Botanical Magazine*, and is described as the *Rosa muscosa*, or Moss Rose, and the Plate is dated December, 1788. It is also stated that though Miller thought it a distinct species, Linnæus considered it only a variety of *Rosa centifolia*. "The Legend of the Moss Rose" tells us of its origin. The angel, whose sweet duty it is to wait upon the flowers, said one day to the Rose:

"What shall I give to thee, fair child?

Queen among flowers, already, thou,

My crown, my joy, my pride:

Perplexed he looked upon the Rose,

Blushing so fair and sweet,

Then plucked the fine and verdant Moss,

That grew about her feet.

Deftly around each opening bud,

A filmy veil did fold;

And, loveliest of the lovely, now,

The Moss Rose we behold."

There are lovely Moss Roses for the house, and hardy ones for the border. The *Perpetuals* are the most valuable, but of these there are few varieties, and being very difficult to propagate, they are quite scarce, and necessarily high-priced. Of the latest and best are James Veitch and White Moss. The first, "A magnificent Perpetual Moss Rose; extra large; very double and exceedingly sweet, but very mossy; color, bright rosy crimson, changing to deep carnation red; commences to bloom almost as soon as planted, and continues throughout the season. Entirely hardy."

Perpetual White Moss. "The finest grown; an elegant flower; large, full form, very double and deliciously fragrant; buds beautifully covered with moss; blooms in large clusters; pure snowy white; a constant and profuse bloomer. Very valuable for cemeteries."

Florists differ very essentially in prices, so that if one compares them, they can frequently make quite a saving. Before me are two 1881 catalogues. Both represent large and reliable firms. One has James Veitch priced at 50 to 75 cents; the other one price, \$1.50.

CHINA ROSES.

Are of dwarf habit. They bloom all the season in the open ground. Very fine for the window garden; not fragrant.

HOW SHALL WE PLANT ROSES?

We will give you three methods:

- 1 In the ground, after it has been prepared by spading the soil to the depth of a foot or more, pulverizing and enriching with well rotted dressing. Set the plants well in the ground, and firm the earth compactly down on the

roots. That this firming of the soil is very essential, will be apparent from the following incident related by Mr. Henderson, an experienced florist.

"About a month ago," says Mr. H., "I sent a package of Roses by mail to a lady in Savannah. She wrote me a woeful story last week, saying, that though the Roses had arrived seemingly right, they had all died but one, and what was very singular, the one that lived was the one Mr. Jones had stepped on, and which she thought crushed to death, for Mr. Jones weighed 200 pounds!" Mr. Henderson does not advise any gentleman of 200 pounds' weight to put his brogan on the top of a tender Rose plant, as conducive to its health, but he thinks if Mrs. Jones had allowed her weight to press the soil against the root of each of her dozen Roses, the probability is, that she might have saved them all. This suggestion of Mr. Henderson is worthy of consideration by all. It is applicable to the setting out of fruit trees, bushes, plants and seed-sowing. Mr. H. says that he did not himself realize fully the importance of firming the soil with the feet in the operation of seed-sowing and planting, until a few years ago.

"Particularly in the sowing of seeds," he adds, "I consider the matter of such vast importance, that it cannot be too often or too strongly told, for the loss to the agricultural and horticultural community by the neglect of the simple operation of firming the soil around seed, must amount to many millions annually."

2 In bedding out Tea Roses, they can be first set in small unglazed pots. A bit of crock over the hole to keep the roots from going astray, then fill with rich mellow soil. Do not forget to plant firmly in the pot, which you can then plunge in the garden bed, just

deep enough to have the soil well cover the pots, so that they are not seen. Plants thus treated require water more frequently than those set directly in the ground. Still care must be had not to keep them too wet, as it weakens the feeding roots, and results in decay. It is of course essential before bedding out plants received from the florists, that they be kept from the sun several days, in order that they may first become established in their new quarters, or, if plunged directly in the soil without potting, that they be protected by a covering.

As to the best of the two methods we cannot determine. We have adopted both with our tender Roses, and during our seven years of experience cannot determine as to which of them is really the best, as respects their healthy growth and bloom. We plant most of our new plants in small pots, and sometimes bed out our older sorts without removal, as they can be so easily transferred from the border to a place of shelter in the autumn, when there is danger of frost. They can then be repotted at leisure. We do know that it is not essential that Roses become pot-bound in order to blossom freely, for those planted directly in the ground bloom just as well, and *vice versa*. In this they differ from geraniums, which are prone to run to roots, and in order to secure constant bloom from tiny plants, we find it best to bed them out in very small pots. We use mostly 4-inch size for all our small plants.

3 This we have never tried, therefore will give you the experience of one who has, as related in the February number of the *Journal of Floriculture*. It dates back to twenty-six years ago. The lady says :

“The first plant I ever had was a Fuchsia, quite a small one at that. I planted it in a big wooden pail, but O, my !

how heavy it was to carry about, but I succeeded ; such a Fuchsia I never saw. I was not quite happy, with only one plant, so I bought a *Devoniensis* Rose ; it was a tiny plant about four inches high. Well, I supposed I must have all outdoors brought into the house in order to make the little thing live, for I supposed plants were like babies and must be well fed, so I filled a large wash-tub with very rich earth. First, I pounded nail holes in the bottom of the wash-tub to let the water out ; it's a wonder I knew enough for that, but I did, and then I set my tub on two chairs before a south window, and then set my little Rose-bush in the center of the tub ; it was so small I could hardly see it. That Rose-bush did not die, as most Roses would have done, but behaved nicely, and grew like a bean-stalk, so rapidly ! Every warm rainy day my tub had to be carried out. It took two men, and was not done without a little grumbling, but I never minded that, only I would say, 'Don't you think it's grown lots for being rained on ?' Well, that bush grew to be four feet high, and had at one time thirty full blown roses on it and nearly as many buds. The tub was then full, but such a Rose-bush is only to be had once in a lifetime."

We read this story to a lady the other evening, when she laughingly said : "I had just such an experience with my first plant. It was a wee slip of Rose geranium, and I filled a large butter firkin with earth, and planted it in the center. Such hard work as it was to remove it from place to place to give it sunlight, it almost broke my back !"

This 3d method of planting you will probably not adopt. It would be inexcusable in these enlightened days !

Our specified limits will not admit of the notes we had taken relating to a few Roses worthy of special mention,

but we will avail ourself of the liberty of extension generously given, that we may say something about

THE MARECHAL NIEL ROSE,

Which has long stood at the head of its class. This Rose originated with Mr. Pradel of Mantauban, France, in 1864, and first flowered in this country the summer of 1866. It is a very large and full globular Rose, highly scented; color, a deep yellow. It is a magnificent climber under glass. Some florists call it a shy bloomer, but that it flowers profusely under favorable circumstances is apparent, from the fact that Mr. Pearson, an English florist, reports having cut from one plant in his green-house, 2000 flowers last year. One of our own florists seeing this statement in the *Gardener's Monthly*, wrote to that Magazine the following statement:

"I have a Marechal Niel Rose growing in a green-house where I raise my bedding plants. It is 45 feet long, and the roof is wired the same as for a grapery, and the Marechal Niel is trained on to it; it covers the entire roof. I have several times cut 300 Roses from it at one time, and over 4000 in one year."

Our own success has not been encouraging. Three seasons we have tried it, but no blooms have rewarded us. A neighbor has been more fortunate, for she has had three, and even one she thought would amply repay for all her care, they were so large and sweet, and remaining a week in perfect flower.

We will now add to the original essay a few notes of other beautiful Roses:

LA FRANCE ROSE.

Last year in France they tried to find out by vote what Rose was considered the best. La France had 79 votes, Gen. Jacqueminot, 52, La Reine, 42, while Marie Van Houtte, an elegant and popular Rose in this country, only had 25. The editor of the *Horticulturist* in giving this item says: "These votes are like our fruit votes. The one which is the most extensively grown will get the most votes, because half the voters do not know of many other kinds. But it is a superb Rose."

Mr. H. G. Hooker of Rochester, N. Y., bears a very strong testimony to its value. He thus writes to the *Horticulturist*: "Here in Rochester the La France is proving itself worthy of its name and fame. Nothing can excel it in beautiful delicate color, exquisite and abundant per-

fume, and profuse, constant blooming, from the commencement to the close of vegetation ; just as long as growth is maintained, beautiful bloom will follow ; in fact the habit of over-flowering is its principal drawback. Unless high cultivation and liberal manuring are furnished, it will be stunted by excessive flowering ; but if freely manured, and a portion of the too numerous buds cut off in season, the results are admirable. At the present writing, August 17th, my nursery plantation of one-quarter acre of La France Roses, where the early flowers were cut off until the plants were well established, and good culture given, is a place of beauty and fragrance beyond anything I have ever seen in Rose growing. Some of the blooms are five inches in diameter, many are four inches across, and all furnish shades of color, and reflections of color on the inside and outside of the petals quite beyond description. As this Rose is hardy, at least at the root, and nearly so at the top, it ought perhaps to stand at the head of the Hardy Perpetual class, all things considered, as combining the largest number of good points. It requires close pruning, nearly to the ground every spring."

Mr. Ellwanger says of La France : "The sweetest of all Roses ; compelled to choose one variety, this should be ours." A writer in the *London Quarterly Review*, says : "No Rose, taking all the good qualities of a Rose together, will surpass the Gloire de Dijon, though golden cups of Marechal Niel may be richer in color, and the fragrance of *La France* recalls as no other Rose does, the luxurious fragrance of Oriental otto of Roses."

ISABELLA SPRUNT.

This is one of the three most popular Tea Roses raised specially for cut flowers. Its sale is enormous. Color,

sulphur yellow, a sport from Safrano which it closely resembles, except in hue. It originated with Rev. James M. Sprunt D.D., of Kenansville, N. C., and he tells about it on this wise, in a letter to Mr. Ellwanger :

“In the spring of 1855, I removed from my former residence in this town to the premises on which I now reside. Among the plants which I carried with me, was a very large and handsome Safrano Rose. . . . I pruned it well back, but the early summer being dry, the top died. The plant, however, put forth six or eight strong shoots from the collar at the surface of the soil, and one of these attracted my attention from its dissimilarity to the others in the color of the stem and foliage. I observed it carefully until it bloomed, when it proved to be a fine yellow, all the other shoots retaining the normal color of the Safrano. From this sport which was named ‘Isabella Sprunt,’ from one of my daughters, I sent a cutting to Mr. Isaac Buchanan of New York, in 1860, and it was sent out by him some two or three years afterward.”

About three years ago, Mr. Sprunt adds, the original plant developed a bud and flower, one-half of which was like Safrano, and the other half like Isabella Sprunt. He tried to *fix* this new sport, but failed.

AMERICAN BANNER ROSE.

This originated with Mr. George Cartwright of Dedham, Mass., 1877, and was first put in the market by Mr. Peter Henderson the following year. It has produced a great sensation, but is of no special value except as a novelty. The flowers are carmine, striped with white. As the stripes are the most distinct on the outside of the petals, the half-blown buds are far more attractive than the open flower. The “markings” are not striking, except on the outer

petals; the center is of a very pale pinkish white color, not at all beautiful. The Rose is not very full; the leaves are very small and leathery. It is a sport from Bon Silene, which is much its superior every way.

Cornelia Cook, a seedling from *Devoniensis*, has been much puffed for several years as the best white Tea Rose ever sent out, but not being a very free bloomer, and its buds not opening well, it has retired somewhat into the shade, and *Niphotos*, with its long, large buds, has come to the front, as a freer and more constant bloomer. Color, white, with a pale yellowish tinge sometimes. It is rare to find a pure white Tea; nearly all have a flush of some other color. *Mademoiselle Rachel* is pure snow-white, very double, and deliciously scented; beautiful buds, and is an elegant Rose for house culture or the garden bed.

Washington is another fine white. It blooms in large clusters, is quite hardy, and fine for a pillar Rose, but can be cut back if desired to have it bushy. *Jules Chretien*, a new Hybrid Perpetual, sent out by Mr. John Saul of Washington, D. C., is a splendid Rose; color, bright crimson, shaded with purple. A vigorous grower, and free bloomer.

Presuming that no one who cultures the Hybrid Perpetuals, will object to their blooming in the autumn as well as summer months, we now give Mr. Ellwanger's list of

BEST AUTUMNAL HYBRID PERPETUALS.

Light Colors.

1	Francois Michelin.	10	Countess of Oxford.
2	Marguerite de St. Amande.	11	Rev. J. B. Camm.
3	Countess of Serenge.	12	La Reine.
4	Abel Gand.	13	Madame Boll.
5	Mademoiselle Theresa Levet.	14	Princess Charlotte.
6	Baroness Rothschild.	15	Boildieu.
7	Mlle. Eugenie Verdier.	16	Baronne Provost.
8	Paul Neyron.	17	Anna de Diesbach.
9	Victor Verdier.		

Dark Colors.

1 Alfred Colomb.	5 Maurice Bernardin.
2 Marie Baumann.	6 Louis Van Houtte.
3 Horace Vernet.	7 Prince Camille de Rohan.
4 Pierre Notting.	

THE BEST TWENTY-FOUR MONTHLY ROSES FOR
BEDDING.

BY H. B. ELLWANGER, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

In selecting Roses suitable for bedding, several necessary qualifications must be considered. When we plant Roses in isolated positions, we often do so having regard to some special qualities which by themselves would not make them of value for massing together.

The requisites for a good bedding Rose are freedom of bloom, healthy habit of growth, good form, pure, steadfast color, fragrance, and sufficient fullness of flower.

The following varieties are, in my opinion, the best for the purpose :

THE BEST SIX.

Gerard Desbois.—Bright red ; one of the hardiest Teas.

Homer.—Mottled salmon rose.

Jean Pernet.—A beautiful light yellow, not so well known as it should be.

La France.—The founder of the new race of Hybrid Teas ; a constant bloomer, and the sweetest of them all.

Marie Van Houtte.—Pale yellow, the edges of petals very often shaded with rose, producing a unique effect. A most charming sort.

Mons Furtado.—This and Jean Pernet are the most valuable pure yellow Teas.

FOR THE BEST TWELVE, ADD

Appolline (Bourbon).—Not quite so full as some of the others, but beautiful rosy pink flowers of good cupped shape. If kept cut back, it is like *La France*, always in bloom.

General Tartas.—Deep mottled rose ; fine habit, good buds.

Madame de Vatry.—Rose, with a shade of salmon.

Madame Lombard.—Reddish salmon, but of variable shades. Very fine.

Sombreuil.—Creamy white; a superb Rose out of doors.

Triomphe de Luxemburg.—Coppery rose.

FOR BEST EIGHTEEN, ADD

Bougere.—Rosy bronze.

Countess Riza du Parc.—Bronzed rose with a shade of carmine.

La Princesse Vera.—Flesh, shaded with yellow, outer petals bordered with coppery rose.

Marie Ducher.—Salmon rose.

Marie Guillot.—Creamy white; a lovely Rose, but unfortunately almost without fragrance.

Rubens.—Flesh, shaded with pale rose.

FOR BEST TWENTY-FOUR, ADD

Catherine Mermet.—Silvery pink; the most beautiful of all the Teas.

Comte de Sembui.—Salmon and rose, base of petals coppery yellow.

Hermosa (Bourbon).—This well-known sort is constantly in flower but is not equal in quality to others named.

Jean Ducher.—Bronzed rose.

Perle des Jardins.—A beautiful straw color.

Queen of Bedders (Bourbon).—This is another variety constantly in flower, but it is of rather poor growth. Color, a deep crimson, somewhat the shade of Charles Lefebvre.

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