

**HARDY FLORISTS'
FLOWERS:
THEIR CULTIVATION AND
MANAGEMENT**

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Hardy Florists' Flowers: Their Cultivation and Management by James Douglas

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JAMES DOUGLAS

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MANAGEMENT**



Yours Truly
Charles Sumner

HARDY
FLORISTS' FLOWERS:

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TO

CHARLES TURNER, OF SLOUGH,

WHOSE LIFE-LONG DEVOTION TO FLORISTS' FLOWERS, HAS SO
GREATLY ASSISTED IN THE

PROMOTION OF FLORICULTURE,

THIS SMALL VOLUME IS DEDICATED,

AS A SLIGHT TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.





P R E F A C E .

DURING the last few years, the plants popularly designated as "Florists' flowers" have been very much sought after by the general public, and their cultivation has consequently been much extended. Many persons with but little knowledge of practical horticulture see them in the gardens of friends; they are charmed with their sweetness, their beautiful colours, and exquisite form; and naturally become anxious to procure and grow them; but they are confronted at the outset with two difficulties, the trouble of obtaining the plants, and the absence of any definite knowledge as to their requirements. A gentleman of considerable horticultural experience once said to me, "It is possible that persons with plenty of money at their command may be able to procure a collection of Auriculas, but probably not more than one in ten of them could keep the plants in health after they have obtained them." I have many times

been asked for information as to the proper treatment of various florists' flowers by amateurs of this class, and also by gentlemen's gardeners, who, though possessing an intimate knowledge of the various branches of their profession, still had no practical knowledge of the technicalities incidental to some sections of floriculture; and it is to meet the want, the growing want, as I believe, of such information, that has induced me to string my thoughts together, and commit them to print in the following pages, with the hope that, in however humble a way, the directions there given may prove of some service to the cause of floriculture.

There are still a few of the old florists alive who cultivated the Auricula fifty years ago, and who still pay unwearied attention to the flowers they loved and tended in their youth. Such an one is Mr. Alex. Meiklejohn of the Raploch, near Stirling, where the worthy old man may be seen tending his plants in the same place as he watched over them fifty years ago; and what a large fund of rational enjoyments he obtains from his plants all the year round. He remarked to me a few years ago when I visited him, "that there was not a happier old man in all Scotland." Nearly all his contemporaries have passed away except Peter Campbell of Falkirk, but the works of such men as Robert Trail of Aberlady, George Lightbody of Falkirk, Richard Headly of Stapleford and others, remain as *living* witnesses of their skill and perseverance.