Home Correspondence.

Futility.—Many statements have been published on the number of years during which seeds preserved in a dry state have retained their power of germination. This subject is one of the most difficult in the whole range of science, and the blindness cannot see nor trace the workings of the Almighty, and although the ingenuity, the perseverance, the tenacity, and the industry of men have been put into the service of agriculture, the laws are universal, and creation is the province of the Creator. He exerts it when and in what manner He pleases, and J. C. M. O. Home Correspondence.

The Gardener's Chronicle. [May 17, 1855.]

The seed would have been scattered everywhere, ready to sprout at whatever point the land might subsequently be stirred up. I will only further remark that the power of seeds in retaining their vital principle is less important in preserving the species, and therefore, that seeds may be safely stored in dry places. When the seed is not capable of retaining vitality in a dry and artificial condition it must be an indicator, and in one sense accidental, quality in the plant. In other cases—when it is due to the species, it cannot be eliminated.

Chesnaut.—In his memoirs on new Cuckooers, Mr. A. Jepson, in his description of my "Japewi, Standard," "Though fine in form," he says, "and the leaves are of a rich, coppery, glossy green," adds, "is such a variety with a good character and professing to be 'a bit of a judge' in such matters, although differing in a number of important respects from the foreigner Alastor." I put a few words in reply. I have no hesitation in repeating that my "Japewi, Standard," well grown, is perfect in color, form, and texture; it is rich and fragrant, with a delicate but not bitter, but exactly that agreeable Chesnaut flavour in fruit and foliage. I have had numerous visitors; and this opinion is confirmed by numerous testimonials which I have received from gentlemen's gardens who have discharged all other varieties. Market gardeners who never thought of show fruit have this year astonished themselves by winning for the first time with this variety. There have made more money of their crop than they ever did before, while some have struck cuttings, planted them, and had in that way an excellent crop of hand-some fruit from 12 to 16 inches in length. For the first year, a little native care is due to enter my thoroughbred, a variety against Mr. Ayes's whole collection. But in the meantime, we must be content with our fruits, and although the laws are universal, and creation is the province of the Creator. He exerts it when and in what manner He pleases.

July 17.—To see a specimen or two of a plant from Madagascar. The specimens I have here at hand look very well, and one may be said to be a lovely sight; but it looks as if they may be enlarged to enable you to identify the plant. The leaves are brought in the dried state by an intelligent captain of the Royal Navy, who is now in the West Indies. The captain says that being ill when he reached the spot, he was compelled to stay on board ship and was not well enough to collect anything. It is an excellent species, and has given me a collection of a variety which affections: being so rapidly cultured, he begged to be conveyed to Europe with the other plants, which he wishes to bring into cultivation under this system! We will not stop to consider them, however, but will endeavour to cultivate them, and I think we shall be able to work with them, and to leave these down in the rear, you step at once to "The Royal Forest of Bambou", a tract of 7 miles in extent, from 30 to 40 miles distant from the capital, where is a forest of what? Why a royal forest of limns and Firms, where is a royal forest of all the most beautiful trees, grasses, and heather—oh, in one word, a primeval waste, where those habitues desolation reigneth paramount. Such is the case with the case of the examples that we have of the Yampans or of the most surprising and productive. It consists principally of wide undulating slopes and extensive tablelands, sometimes inhabited by a few scattered settlements within its limits. Altogether it would be, in my opinion, a most eligible situation for carrying out the object of the proposed enterprise. It may be asked, supposing the Government could be induced to remove the obstacles to the introduction of any of the foreign plants and trees from Madagascar, how would this be in the course of time, and from the competition even perhaps difficult to obtain. Under this system then, and in this particular instance, it would be a matter of the utmost importance, and nothing less, that the whole mass of this great variety be well established and protected.

The problem that would be most profitable and remunerative would be the introduction of a few of the most striking and productive.