THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE. November 13, 1898.

few crops of great coarse Grapes might be had by their use, if the Vines did not die; but in the long
run destruction to the Vines was inevitable. Nevertheless, misled by the authority of a num-
erous and powerful band allowed themselves to be
led by their noses, and paid the penalty of their
egregious folly.

It was a pity that garbage-fed Vines grew for
a while in all the glory of rankness and empy-
vincing. It was to Raby that the admirers of
grape-plantation must look for the glories of Raby now! Let one of our good corre-
spondents tell us what he has lately seen there.

"Having had frequent opportunities of seeing the Vines at Raby, the last eight
years, and as so much has been said about them
and the wonders they were to perform, a few
remarks on this subject may not be out of
place, they are now condemned. Having heard
by chance heard that the charge of the gardens had passed to other hands, and that the
Vine borders were in progress, I was anxious to
see the state of the Vine roots.

"An interval of three years had elapsed since I last saw this part of the estate, but
what a change since then! Berries, bunches, and wood, had become small by degrees and beautifully less." In fact, there was a marked change. Vines (180 feet by 20 feet) one dozen good
bunches fit to send to a nobleman's table, and around the original border had contracted by
decomposition and other causes to less than 15 inches
in depth, and had become a compact, stinking
mass, which looked more like putty, the roots appeared
to have left this compact bed somewhat, yet as all the
roots in it were in the root, and the few roots that
remained alive were in the soil above, made by
the movement of the earth, such as the slight
at the top by the large quantities of hot dung laid
on the borders. The wood of the Vines was wrestled in
with hot dung, as far as it was possible, even in
the (rather course) pruning, or get a bunch where
you can, has been followed, till all became one
mass of dust, and an earthquake and failure; letting
alone the mortification to the owner. It is a very
expensive to secure for his table an ample supply of
fruit.

"New borders are now in course of preparation;
ones for the early houses being chambered and
heated with four rows of hot-water pipes; the
pipes used, as far as I could observe, were long,
rough, ragged, and rotten duff; some of the old Vines will be replanted, young ones being
put into the new borders." We are happy to learn that his Grace is not likely again to suffer from practical crotchet.

With reference to the experiments on KINING
THE VINE, last week communicated by Mr. RIVERS,
his Grace has sent us another bunch of Vines from Black Harry Farm, which
suffered the usual injury; and he states that several more are in the same condition, while branches on other Vines are being cut off. I feel the instance now before us to incline us to believe
that the ringing has been too severe; either too
much of a reflection, or too sharp a ring. Furthermore, the wood below the ring very nearly dead, which would
of course render it impossible for the Grapes to reach
any maturity. Undoubtedly the degree of ringing that may be allowed is very different for different
varieties. Our opinion is that the ring ought not to be wider than is necessary to prevent
the circulation of the blood in the bark itself, cure being taken not to injure the
alburnum."

ON THE AGENCY OF BEES IN THE FERTILIZATION OF PAVILLONEOUS FLOWERS, AND ON THE CROSSING OF KIDNEY BEANS.

Lett\'s remarks on the state of the soil is not
to be noticed. If however there is any danger of
the Vines being thoroughly drained that also must be care-
fully looked to, for no Apple trees can retain their
health when the soil is not properly supplied with
water; and it is only necessary afterwards to leave the
Vine to its own vital powers; watching however how the
new Vines grow, as they are far from being as
good as from time to time all such as in any way chase, or cross
such other.

The notion of making VINE BORDERS with
Vines has always encountered serious opposition
in these columns, whatever favour it may have
found elsewhere, and it is well known that some
rotton sheep, offal and garbage of all sorts, when
ever used as practical authority with which they were
put forward, is all repugnant to common sense, and
to rational gardeners' ideas.
Home Correspondence.

Papua Grass.—There are two species growing here on turf, one purple-brown, having produced 35, the other 27 shrubbery to the dull monarchy of their line, for grouping or otherwise on turf it seems admirably fitted.

The introduction of this kind of Sorgum to Europe was in 1879, and it has rapidly become the staple crop in many parts of Africa, India, and the United States. It is highly esteemed for its yielding power, and its tolerance of drought and heat. The grain, which is fine and white, is used for human food, and the straw for cattle food.

Sorghum zaccariae, which I should think will be a great blessing in dry seasons when a small amount of water is sufficient. The name of the Chinese Sugar-cane is very different from Sorgum vulgare. Your correspondent Mr. Ellett will no doubt be surprised to hear that the former was introduced (I suppose merely as a botanical plant) in 1750, the latter in 1769. In the first case it was grown at first in the gardens of the Dutch, who had one plant every two months earlier than usual. In the American Garden at the last, in 1875, it was grown at the same time but in a hothouse, but it is very inferior to the female, being of a fine purplish tint. A Dertennion.—We have a fine specimen of Sitka spruce in our garden, but if it should produce only one spire, last year it had eight, and this year it has 27, the highest being about 12 feet high.

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