number of plants belonging to distinct genera without having taken due precaution to exclude insects, and when he found that he had succeeded in crossing them. With the enthusiasm of a beginner he most unwise published the results, and to this first paper Dr. Herbert has alluded with proper blame. When Gärtner found his seedlings came up pure, he, like an honest and excellent man (as all who know anything of his life will admit that he was), publicly confessed his error.

Gärter's great and last work, entitled "Versuche über die Bastardierung," contains in 790 closely-printed pages the detailed results of nine thousand distinct experiments in crossing, together with admirable observations on the whole subject of hybridization. This is a greater number of experiments than, as I believe, have ever been published by any other man, even by Kölreuter, and a far greater number than those published by Dr. Herbert. One great superiority in Gärtner's work over those of Kölreuter, Herbert, and others consists in his having actually taken the trouble to count the seeds in the capsules of every cross and hybrid which he made. He kept an exact record at the time of making each experiment; and this I have reason to believe was not done by Herbert, and certainly has been very far from the case with other English experimentalists.

I cannot resist here mentioning—as some who honour, as I do, the memory of Dr. Herbert, might like to hear the fact—that I have reason to believe that the last words ever uttered by that great and noble man, were: 'The time, however, is at hand when the first bastard hybrid of this pea and that will be brought forth for winter decoration. Amongst shrubs were some rather promising Yews and Elxes, and the excellent keeping of the whole reflected great credit on all concerned. To my mind the raising of 1200 gallons of the purest water per minute from the bowels of the earth was not the least interesting experiment of the season, and we have seen nothing better on our visit.'

VINDICATION OF GÄRTNER—EFFECT OF CROSSING PEAS.

In my last communication I said that Gärtner had proved that the colour of the Pea in one variety of the garden Pea may be changed by the direct action of the pollen of another differently-coloured variety. Mr. Beacons authoritatively remarks on this: "Gärter never found that—be it only asserted; and when he was pushed to the proof he lowered his sails, made a second edition of his great work, and confessed many of his claims to be unfounded. "I have myself practiced in England at the present day would like to have his mistakes but that of Gärtner for or against any explicit in crossing."

The plant was submitted to the notice of Mr. Besant, and spoken of by him in No. 66 of your Journal, page 248, under the name of "Good Gracious!"

GOOD-GRACIOUS TANSY

We observed in your issue of 20th inst., a letter of protest against the name given to the Double Pea now offered for sale by us, and we shall feel greatly obliged if you will insert the following reply.

The plant was submitted to the notice of Mr. Besant, and spoken of by him in No. 66 of your Journal, page 248, under the name of "Good Gracious!" as follows:

"The 'Good-Gracious' Double Bedding Pea was sent in the name of Messrs. Carter & Co., and had a first-class certificate from a flying quorum of the Floral Committee, for they all assured us on the wing; but besides the Sub-Committee, for whom the time was to be considered the Chairman, J. B. Blandy, Esq., and the Rev. J. D. D., who take the Chair in turns; the Secretary, Mr. Moore, and a lot of us; and we were unanimous in the award. Many ladies also seconded our resolve; and you may expect it next spring as cheap as it is good. But I have not yet had its genealogy, further than that it is a Devonian.—D. BEATOS."

When we gave the plant the name of "Princess Alexandrine," we had forgotten that Mr. Besant had already introduced it to the notice of the public in the pages of your Journal under the name "Good Gracious!" and not wishing to confuse the public by offering the same plant under different names, we were retracted to its originally-published cognomen. We do not, however, wish it to be inferred from the foregoing observations that we agree with your correspondent's opinion, and desire to