

### GETTING AN EDUCATION.

A new correspondent claims a place in the Magazine. It is hoped that the modesty of the proprietor will not prevent him from admitting this one communication.

In the summer of the year 1882 the writer received a letter from some one in south-eastern Pennsylvania. He described his circumstances, stating that he was married, had two children, and was successfully engaged in business. He had formerly seen hard times and had been unable to get as good an education as he desired. At that time he could raise the money, but would it pay to go 700 miles, leaving family and business, to pursue a course of study? The writer encouraged the young man, and assured him that he had never seen a case where a person was sorry that he had too much learning. A knowledge of the sciences, as now studied in our best colleges, is a source of perpetual delight to every one who successfully pursues a good course. The encouraging letter brought the young man, who came on to try his hand for a term or two. It was a long time since he had been in the habit of studying books. It looked rather discouraging for a time. He had to work hard to learn a little. Knowledge came slowly. He missed a good early training in school. But grit did not give out. With a little study came strength and the power to control his mind. He began to feel his power and to realize that he was growing in intellect. Study after study was made up by courses of reading, by extra hours spent in the Laboratories. He was permitted to select some of his studies, which were different from those marked out in the agricultural course. His business often kept him out for a part of the term, and one term a year was omitted for three years. Besides, he transacted a good deal of business while he was studying at the college. In the spring of 1886 he returned again, with the prospect of completing a course during the year. He had omitted some of the mathematics and taken some other studies in their place, choosing considerable extra botany, entomology and chemistry.

At the last commencement of the Michigan Agricultural College he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of

Science, and was as strong a man as any in his class. His wife and brother were here to see him take the "sheep-skin."

The writer predicts that in the near future the subscribers of the FLORAL MAGAZINE will see some marked improvements, and that in other respects he will make his mark in some department of horticulture. His thirst for knowledge is still unquenched. He is still intending to pursue some favorite lines of study and investigation.

Whether the young man thinks the course of study worth all it cost him, in sacrificing some part of his business, in absence from home, in spending time and money, let him tell, for he is the proprietor of G. W. PARK'S FLORAL MAGAZINE. One of his teachers.

W. J. Beal.

**MONTBRETIAS.**—In the early part of this summer I read in a paper a glowing account of the Montbretias; so I thought I ought to have some too. But before I purchased them I dropped a postal to the firm and inquired if it was time yet for to plant them. I was answered, "Yes." I expected dry bulbs, but when they came they were nice plants. I did my utmost. They grew somewhat, but altogether their growth was stunted. Now they begin to dry off and they have not bloomed. Shall I leave them in the pots or put them in dry sand? Mrs. S. B.

Philadelphia, Oct. 1, 1886.

**ABOUT TRADESCANTIA.**—A friend sent me a trailing *Tradescantia* labeled Corn-stalk Geranium. The *Tradescantia Virginica* belongs to the Spiderwort family, and is often called Spiderwort. I never heard it called Spider Lily. This is a handsome plant, with erect stems growing two feet high, and long, slender, beautiful leaves, sheathing at base and tapering to an acute point. The flowers are blue. Uhlman.

Riverside, W. Va.

**LILIUM CANDIDUM.**—The very finest and most satisfying of all the garden flowers known to me is *Lilium Candidum*, or Madonna Lily. It is perfectly hardy on nearly all soils, and may be successfully grown as a garden flower or may be forced into flower for Easter-tide. V.