

TERRIFIC POWER OF NITRO-GLYCERINE.

We are indebted to Mr. William C. Siebold, Jr., our valued correspondent at Fort Wayne, Ind., for the photograph from which the accompanying engraving was made, showing the effect upon a roadway where a recent explosion of nitro-glycerine took place. The scene of the explosion was near the city of Bluffton, Ind. Our photo was made three hours after the explosion. The Fort Wayne Sentinel gives the following particulars:

Early on the morning of April 26 William Ulmer, a young man eighteen years old and unmarried, a driver for the Empire Glycerine Company, which is furnishing nitro-glycerine for the companies engaged in sinking oil wells in the Montpelier field, 14 miles distant, started from the mills in a two-horse wagon to take 720 quarts, about 1,200 pounds, of nitro-glycerine to the Montpelier fields.

About 9 A. M., when two miles southeast of the city of Bluffton, near the Powell farm, his wagon struck the root of a tree and upset and the explosion of the nitro-glycerine immediately followed, carrying death and destruction in its wake and creating a scene of horror which it is impossible to correctly describe.

The wagon, the driver, and the horses were blown to atoms, and when the people living in the neighborhood arrived at the place where the explosion occurred not a trace of either of them could be discovered, they having been torn into a thousand pieces and carried miles away.

Several large trees in the vicinity were torn up by the roots and carried many feet away, and the window glass in the houses for two miles around was broken by the force of the explosion, which made a hole in the ground 15 feet deep, 60 feet across the top, and 35 feet at the bottom.

All that was found of Ulmer, the driver, was a part of his clothing, and this was nearly a mile away from the spot where he met his death. Pieces of the horses were also found at about the same distance from the spot, as were also parts of the demolished wagon.

The force of the explosion was plainly felt in this city, although Bluffton is twenty-five miles away, by the rattle of windows in the houses, and many persons thought it was due to an earthquake shock. The same shock was also felt in many towns for miles around Bluffton.

Cattle were killed in fields around the scene of the explosion and many runaways of frightened horses occurred at Bluffton.

THE VICTORIA REGIA IN NEW JERSEY.

It has been supposed to be difficult to grow this remarkable plant in this climate, owing to the warm temperature required. But Mr. S. C. Nash, of Clifton, N. J., has admirably succeeded. A recent number of the Garden, London, gives an engraving, which we copy, made from a photograph sent by Mr. Nash to our cotemporary, together with the following particulars:

This specimen had twenty leaves in different stages of growth above water, a fine flower, and two buds. The seed was started in the greenhouse early in March. The plant was moved to the outdoor pond about the middle of May, from which time till July 4 it had the protection of a sash. The sash and frame were then removed. The first flower opened July 14, and was followed by thirty others in succession, the last one opening October 4. Four flowers were permitted to mature seed, yielding respectively 188, 458, 293, and 569 large, plump, heavy seeds. Unfortunately, three of the young leaves were injured by a severe thunderstorm which passed over

this district a few days before the picture was made. The nature of the damage shows plainly on the edges of the leaves. Many of the leaves were 6 feet in diameter, with rims 6 inches high. Will this plant compare favorably with good specimens grown under glass in England? I have often stood on leaves to satisfy doubting visitors. The heaviest person I ever photo-

Chronicle, one of which was reproduced in fine style. The Chronicle says:

"It shows what may be done in the open air by an enthusiast. The pond in which the Victoria is growing is heated by hot water pipes in connection with an ordinary greenhouse boiler. The temperature of the water is kept up to between 75° and 85°. Toward the end of the season the water often falls to 65° or even 60° without injury to the plant.

"It was in the year 1851 that Messrs. Weeks, who then owned the nursery in the King's Road, Chelsea, now in the possession of Mr. William Bull, succeeded in flowering the Victoria regia in the open air; the first flower opened on April 16. On July 12 of the same year, it is recorded that the plant had been in bloom for three weeks, sixteen blossoms having been expanded in that period. Gold fish multiplied so abundantly in the tank that it was calculated that the sale of these fish would eventually nearly cover the cost of the experiment!

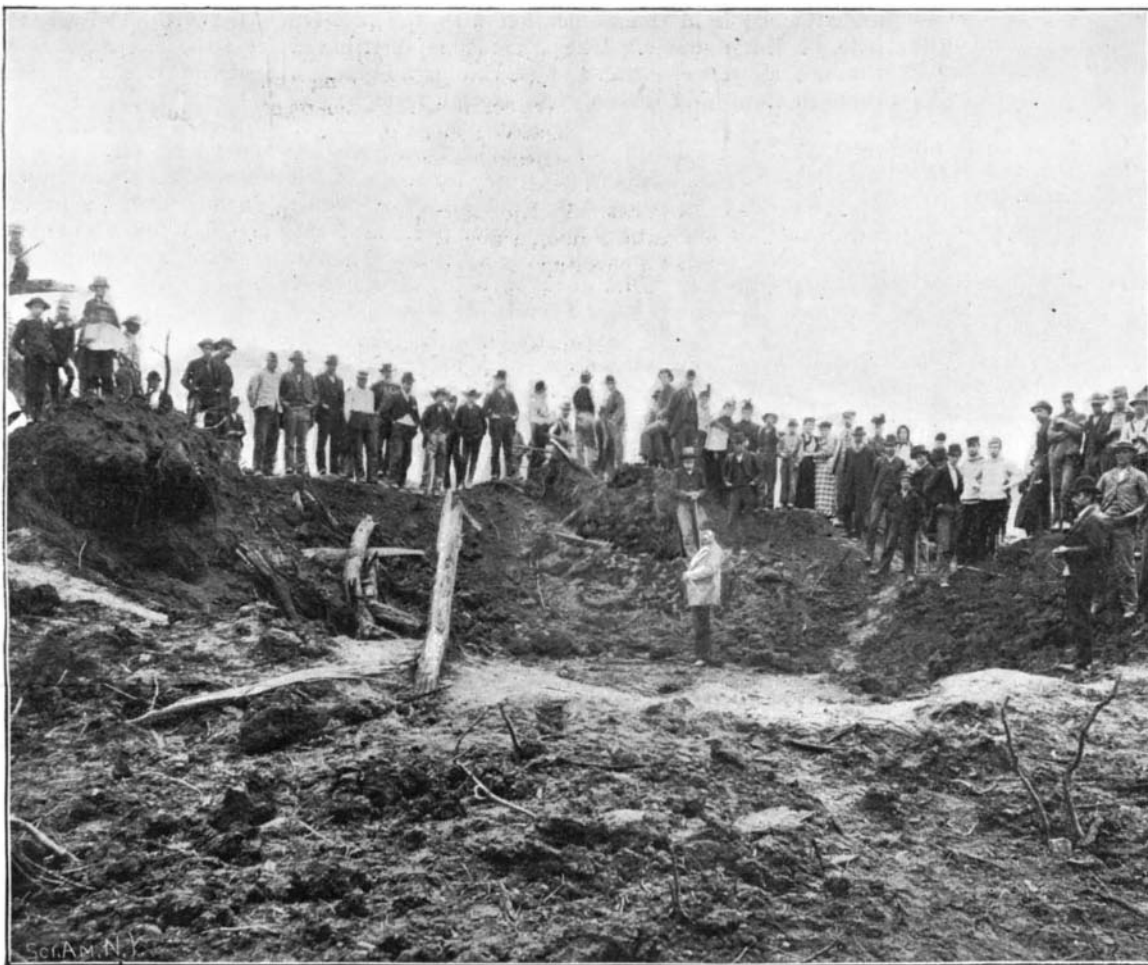
"The Victoria always attracts attention from the singularity and noble appearance of its foliage, but there are many of the Nymphaeas of nearly equal beauty that might be grown under like conditions, such as the very large blue Nymphaea gigantea, the Cape N. scutifolia, the purplish N. zanzibarensis, the primrose yellow N. amazonum, the white lotus and its rose-colored varieties, and a

large number of others. Other aquatics, such as Limncharis, Pontederia, Pistia, Sagittaria, might be grown in the same way. Most of these may be grown from seed or, as in the case of Nymphaeas, from tubers, which may be kept through the winter in bottles, a slight amount of moisture only being maintained. It is not given to every one to utilize hot water pipes as Mr. Nash has done, but they need not repine on that account, as few things are more beautiful than our ordinary water lilies, and especially the new varieties introduced by M. Latour Marliac. The tubers may be planted in mounds, or sunk in baskets of loam, enriched with decayed manure, and cased over with pebbles for the purpose of maintaining the earth in the baskets. Full exposure to the sun is essential. Mr. Nash has reason to be proud of his water garden, and the photographs taken by himself show that, as well as his garden, he cultivates photography with success."

GLASS BRICKS.—Some glass bricks of the system Falconier were exhibited from the glass works, Adlerhütten, in Penzig, Silesia, at a recent meeting of the Vereins zur Beförderung des Gartenbaues in Berlin. These bricks are intended to be used in constructing the walls of plant houses and winter gardens, and they are made out of blown glass, and closed under 500° of heat. They possess internally a hollow of about one-third of their entire contents, which, being filled with rarefied air, acts as a non-conductor of heat. They are joined together with cement, by which a rigidity is obtained which points to the possibility of their being employed as roofing in semicircular form, without any use being made of iron as a supporting structure. In houses built of this material, there must be many advantages not obtainable by other modes of construction with other materials, including greater economy in heating. No

windows are necessary, although, for the purpose of enabling a person to look outside, these fittings might be supplied.

A CARP taken out of the water may be kept alive for over twelve hours by a piece of bread soaked in brandy placed in its mouth.

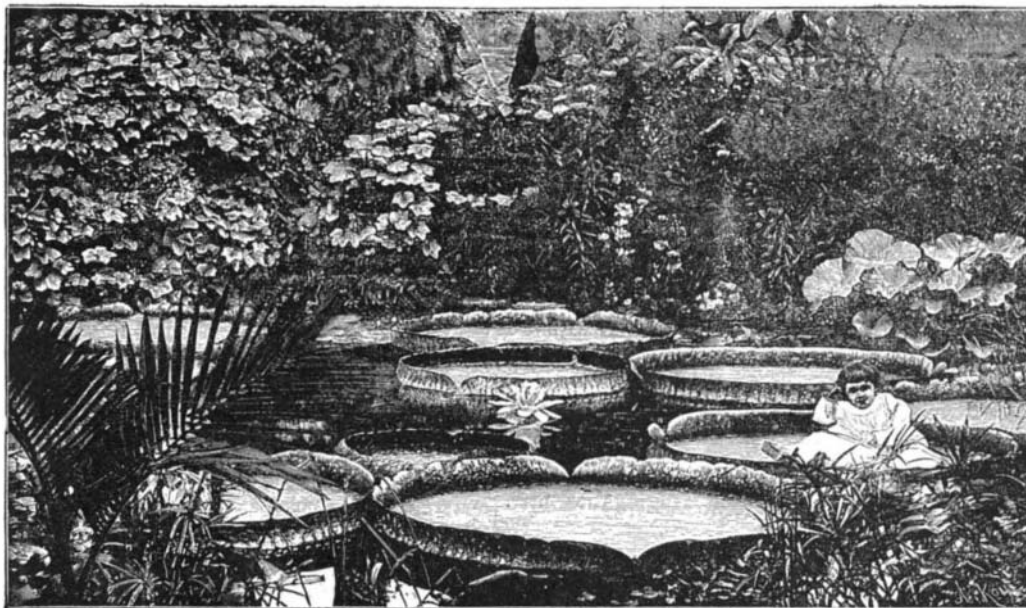


A WAGON LOAD OF NITRO-GLYCERINE EXPLODES.

graphed on an unsupported leaf weighed 174 pounds; add weight of rack (9 pounds) made of laths, and placed on the top of the leaf to distribute the pressure and protect the web of the leaf from the sharp shoe heels. The total weight was in that case 183 pounds. I vouch for the absolute accuracy of these statements.

I have nearly all the varieties of Nymphaeas, or have had them, both hardy and tender. Some I have discarded as not worth bothering with. The only one that proved too much for me was N. sphærocarpa (the Swedish pink lily). I have paid as high as 32s. for a small root of this species or variety, but though I have tried several times, I have not succeeded as yet.

Nelumbium speciosum does grandly here out of doors. A neighbor of mine planted one tuber of this in a natural pond (about 1¼ acres extent) in 1892. I visited this pond last year in August, and do not hesitate to say there were more than 1,000 blooms and buds in sight. At my request he cut the largest leaf we could



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see. The stem measured 10 feet 6 inches in length and the leaf 42 inches in breadth. This was, by 6 inches, larger than any leaf I had previously measured. In my opinion the N. speciosum bears the handsomest flower that grows, everything considered. S. C. NASH.

Clifton, N. J.

Mr. Nash also sent photographs to the Gardeners'