

less than three years after planting. The frost and cold weather so prevalent in winter in such parts of the world as California, Florida, and the Mediterranean basin make us realise how superior our climate is to all the above mentioned, for here such a thing as a frost below 2000 feet above sea level is an unheard of thing, and yet in summer the maximum temperatures are much below that recorded in all the climates alluded to. No wonder these were called by the ancients the Fortunate Islands. I beg to inclose three small packets of *Echium* seeds, *E. pininana*, *E. wildpretii*, and *E. perezii* Sprague. The last is a new species which I had sent you about two years ago under the mistaken name of *E. pininana*, it is very like *E. wildpretii*. You ought to endeavor to raise plants of *E. pininana* which is a very rare plant indeed. All these plants are very remarkable, being most ornamental and attractive to bees and some of them as I have told you before are good forage. Since I speak of bees allow me to call your attention to our mountain broom, *Cytisus supranubius*, also called *Cytisus fragrans*, which is, as far as I know, the plant that gives the best honey in the world. Its habitat is the high plateau of Tenerife, surrounding the Peak, and it grows between 6000 and 10000 feet above the sea level in an excessively dry climate, with very cold nights and hot days. The winter temperature often falls at night to 10° Cent. below zero. I venture to suggest that this plant can be tried in many parts of California, where there are frosts. Oddly enough it has the same habitat as *Echium wildpretii*, which as I have told you before is the hardiest of our *Echiums*."