profuse as it is in European parks. Perhaps, our correspondent in some afternoon drive has observed several glaring offenses against that quietness and self-restraint in planting which alone can make home grounds homelike, and this has depressed his spirits . . .

[Editorial. Garden and Forest 10 (1897): 301]

CHRISTMAS GREEN.

EVERY morning for a week past the steamboat Minnie Cornell, from Keyport, New Jersey, has come to her pier loaded with "rope" and "fancy green." "Rope" is the trade name for the cables made of Club-moss and occasionally of Hemlock spray, and used for looping into festoons or twining about columns in Christmas decorations. "Fancy green" includes the wreaths, stars and other designs, manufactured chiefly from the leaves of Holly, Laurel and Rhododendron, together with Mosses, green or gray, from Oak trunks and Cedar boughs, scarlet berries of the Black Alder, the bluish gray fruit of the Juniper, the scarlet and orange fruits of the Bittersweet, not to speak of Grasses dried and dyed in fearful and wonderful colors. The little steamer has more than once carried 60,000 yards of the festooning material, and 1,500 dozen stars and wreaths at a single trip, and the entire amount of "rope" brought to this market during the season would reach from New York to Boston. The very first Christmas green sold in this city came from Keyport. Some forty-five years ago the wife of a Monmouth County farmer gathered enough Ground Pine to fill a sheet with the four corners tied together, and shipped it on a sloop with her poultry. It proved a lucky venture, and ever since, the people of Monmouth County have held almost a monopoly of the industry, although both the species of Club-moss most largely used, Lycopodium dendroideum and L. complanatum, were practically exterminated from that region years ago. They are still abundant, however, in Connecticut, some parts of northern New York, and Massachusetts, and are shipped to New Jersey in such quantities that large dealers buy them by the ton, and the manufacture of these festal wreaths and cables gives employment to the wives and daughters of many farmers after the fall work on the farm is over.

The trade in Christmas-trees began in 1851, when Mark Carr yoked up his oxen and hauled from the Catskills to the steamboat landing on the Hudson two sled-loads of young Balsams, and paid a silver dollar for the privilege of selling them on the corner of Vesey and Greenwich Streets. At least 150,000 trees have been piled up along the docks of the North River during the last week, and since the days of Mark Carr many a dealer has been glad to pay a hundred dollars for a corner privilege for holiday trade in Christmas trees. About half of the trees this year come from Maine, the remainder from the Berkshire Hills, the Black River country in the Adirondacks, and the Catskills. Good trees in the Catskills are becoming scarce, however, and the woodsmen of those mountains are looking elsewhere for their material. Short jointed, stocky trees with perfect whorls of branches at the base of each annual growth, are the most sought for, and the Maine trees, as a rule, command rather higher prices than any others. The trees come up thickly where hardwood timber has been cleared away, and if they are cut above the second or third joint, one of the limbs soon turns upward and becomes a leader to furnish another Christmas-tree. In this way the same land is cut over several times. Fortunately the
Balsam Fir is about as nearly worthless for any other purpose as any of our native trees, and therefore the waste of cutting so much young timber is not serious. A few Black Spruces come among the Firs, and Hemlock boughs, which, oddly enough, are made to do duty as Palm branches in some church services [and] are in growing demand every year. Trees from Maine are shipped as far south as Baltimore; and of late years large quantities of Holly branches, mostly from Maryland, since the limited supply in New Jersey is nearly exhausted, are sent as far north as Boston. Within two or three years the Mistletoe has been sold here in a few shops and even on the streets, but in spite of its association with Christmas festivities in Old World traditions, it has filled but a small place here in the regular market of Christmas green. And yet this parasite is common on the Gum trees of southern New Jersey, and it is never so beautiful as at this season with its transparent berries clustered among its evergreen leaves.

[Editorial. Garden and Forest 1[1888]: 505–506]

PLANT NOTES.

JAPANESE IRIS.

ONE of the most attractive features in Mr. John L. Gardner’s beautiful garden in Brookline, Massachusetts, is the bed of Japanese Iris (*Iris laevigata* or *Kaempferti*), which forms the subject of our illustration. The plants, which were selected in Japan with great care by Mrs. Gardner, represent the best named Japanese varieties. They are arranged according to color, in the Japanese fashion; each