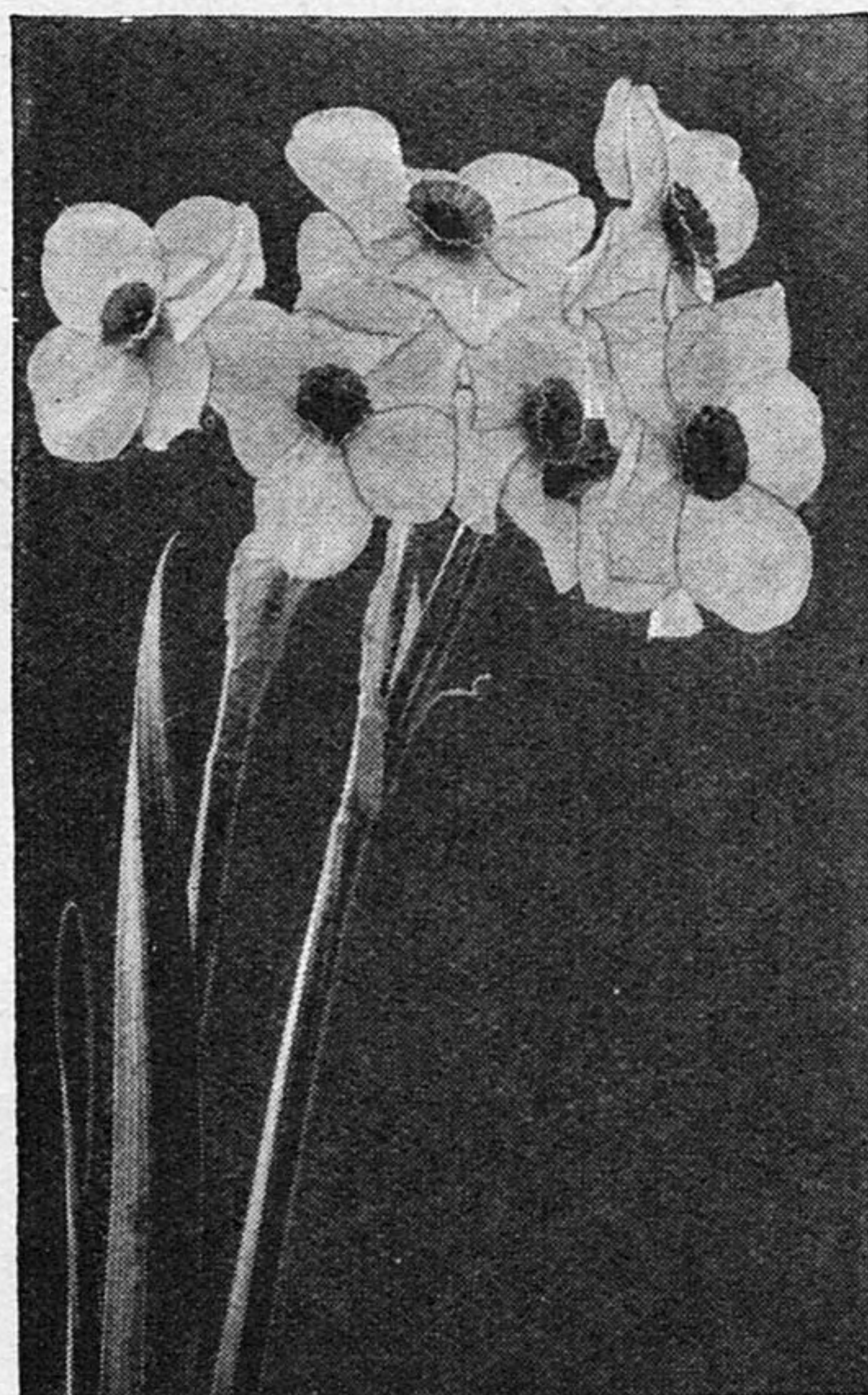


declared, and if he had followed this policy all might have gone well with him. But he longed to win military glory as Napoleon I had done, though he himself had no military training. The Franco-Austrian war in Italy in 1859 made for him many enemies (see Cavour, Count). His unsuccessful attempt to establish Emperor Maximilian in Mexico still further discredited him (see Mexico). In fact his whole

NARCISSI IN BLOOM



Imagine yourself in the Alps in spring, and the meadows covered with flowers like these!

foreign policy in the latter days of his empire was a failure.

In an effort to reduce the growing opposition to his rule he began granting political reforms. The period 1860-70 was thus one of new liberalism in the empire. The powers of the legislature were restored, and ministers responsible to it were appointed. Freedom of the press was granted. But his popularity was

too far undermined for these concessions to save him. When France was crushingly defeated in the Franco-Prussian War, in 1870-71, the whole structure of the Second Empire toppled to the ground.

Taken Prisoner at Sedan

Napoleon himself was taken prisoner of war when the French army surrendered to the Germans at Sedan, on September 2. "Down with the Empire! Long live the Republic!" shouted the people in Paris, and on September 4 the Third Republic was born. The Empress Eugénie, his beautiful Spanish wife, who had wielded a harmful influence on his reign, fled to England, and there Napoleon III joined her after his release at the close of the war.

So began his second exile, which lasted until his death, three years later. He so lacked the genius of Napoleon I that Victor Hugo called him "Napoleon the Little." His name was his principal asset, and with his overthrow the Bonapartist cause was effectually destroyed. The Empress Eugénie, saddened by the death of their only son in battle in Zululand, lived on in lonely widowhood until 1920, dying while on a visit to Spain.

NARCISSUS. One of the prettiest sights of the Alpine meadows in springtime are the wide fields of the white and yellow narcissi which there grows wild. The blossoms, drooping from the end of a tall slender stalk, have an exquisite grace, and a rather spiritual beauty. Their fragrance is overpowering, and can often be noticed a mile away. The plant is a native of Europe, northern Africa, Persia, China, and Japan.

It was beloved by the ancients, and about it cluster many myths and legends. Greek myths tell of a beautiful youth, Narcissus, who, because he had spurned the love of Echo, was condemned by Aphrodite to lose his heart to his own image reflected in a clear pool. Fascinated, he gazed day and night at the beautiful apparition and became weaker and weaker from lack of food, until he pined away and died. The gods in compassion then changed him into this lovely flower that grows near quiet pools.

The Lovely Pheasant-Eye

There are several species of the narcissus, including the daffodils and jonquils. One of the most beautiful is the pheasant-eye narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus*). The trumpet narcissus (*Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*) is the common English daffodil, the only species which is native in Great Britain. *Narcissus polyanthus* is the parent of the cultivated varieties which are grown so extensively by florists and treasured as garden flowers.

Some kinds can be grown indoors in winter.

The bulbs should be set in a deep bowl, surrounded with stones to keep them in place, and kept well covered with water. They should be placed in a dark, cool place until the heavy mat of roots has formed and the leaves have started. They then want plenty of sunlight, but not too much heat, and if kept in a temperature of from 60 to 65 degrees will bloom delightfully.

NASTURTIIUM. Without the gay yellow, orange or red blossoms of the nasturtium our summer gardens would be incomplete. The

A GARDEN FAVOURITE



The bright little Nasturtium of the summer garden.