

## THE FLOWER GARDEN.

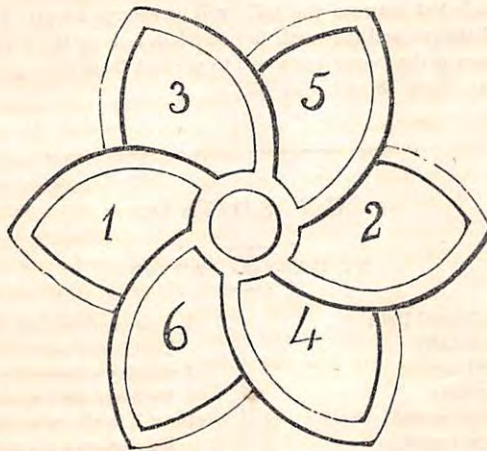
BY MRS. LOUDON.

ONE of the many improvements in gardening which have taken place in modern times, is the custom of producing a brilliant effect in town gardens, by "bedding out," as it is termed, half hardy annuals and green-house plants, which are only intended to live during the summer and autumn in the ground, and are then left there to be killed by the first frost.

This custom of raising plants to produce an effect for only a few months, was formerly confined to large gardens, where expense was of no consequence—as, according to the old mode of managing, numerous pits and green-houses in a reserve garden were required to raise the quantity of plants necessary; but as cheap luxuries have

gradual exposure to the cold; and afterward they are planted out in the ground, or kept in boxes on balconies, where they remain growing and flowering all the summer and autumn, and in fact, till they are killed by the first winter frosts.

The plants most generally treated in this manner, are geraniums, (or pelargoniums, as they are now frequently called) yellow calceolarias, crimson or pink verbenas, and blue lobelias, and with these alone a very brilliant effect may be produced in almost any garden. There are, however, various other kinds of verbenas, purple and white petunias, and fuschias of almost innumerable shades, and several other



become the order of the day in everything, the march of improvement has extended to gardening, and any person possessing a town garden, may, at a very trifling expense, produce as brilliant an effect on a small scale, as the possessor of the most princely garden can on a large one. The manner in which this is done is as follows:—

Cuttings are made in autumn, which are put as thickly as possible into pots, and kept in a cold pit all the winter; in the spring they are divided and potted separately, and these pots are plunged into hot-beds, which have been used for forcing early vegetables, where the heat forces the young plants to form blossom buds. As soon as this is the case, the plants are hardened by

plants, which may be treated in the same manner.

The way in which these plants look best in a town garden is, when they are arranged in regular beds, each bed being filled with plants of one kind and one color, so as to produce the effect of the pattern of Turkey carpet, when seen at a little distance. It is evident that plants used for this purpose should be of bright and decided colors, and that they should flower abundantly. It is also essential that they should be of low growth, in order that the flowers may be as near the ground as possible, as, unless the ground is completely covered with flowers, the effect is lost. Another point which is essential in the planting of a garden of this kind, is

to contrast the colors skilfully, and to produce a symmetrical effect in their arrangement. Thus, for instance, if the flower garden were of the pattern shown in the engraving, 1 and 2 should be planted with Tom Thumb geraniums, which are of low growth and produce a great quantity of brilliant scarlet flowers; 3 and 4 should be planted with the small golden yellow calceolarias; and 5 and 6 with lobelia gracilis. In the centre of the garden there may be a tree rose, a vase, or a fountain; and the walks between the beds may be grass or gravel according to the taste of the possessor of the garden. This will produce a beautiful effect with very little expense, and very little trouble.

Before planting the beds, the earth should be forked over and raked smooth, being slightly raised in the centre; and then a hole being made by the trowel for each plant, it should be turned carefully out of the pot without disturbing the roots, put into the hole prepared for it, and the earth pressed firmly round it. Great care should be taken that no space is left between the ball of earth turned out of the pot and the earth in the bed, because if there is the young roots of the plant will wither. Care should also be

taken not to put the plants in too near together, as, if they are planted too close, they will be drawn up and produce more stems and leaves than flowers. The usual distance is a foot apart every way. When planting verbenas out of the pots, gardeners generally put them in, turning the most bushy part to the north, and then peg them down with a little bit of forked stick at every joint; and when this is done carefully, the plants generally grow and flower luxuriantly, fresh roots being produced wherever they are pegged down. The calceolarias and geraniums being of a more brittle and succulent nature, will not bear pegging down in the same manner as the verbenas; but low, bushy plants should be chosen, and they should be kept open by tying them to little upright pieces of stick, placed so as to be as little seen as possible. If the beds are so large as to require more than one line of plants, there should be three lines, and the tallest of plants should be in the centre; but generally speaking, one line of three plants will be enough for each bed, as great care should be taken to keep the plants within the beds, and to prevent them from growing over the lines

## UN SOGNO.

BY MARY L. LAWSON.

A RADIANT flood of mirrored light

Reflects the brilliant hall;

And on the thick piled carpets

The footsteps softly fall;

And luxuries are spread around

To meet the stranger's gaze;

But our hearts sadly muse upon

The home of other days.

Yes! we are thinking of a home

That held the loved of earth,

Where social gladness fondly met

Around the cheerful hearth,

Where wit and mind and sparkling jest,

Seemed kindled with its blaze;

For bright, congenial spirits met

In the home of other days.

The guests that throng this room to-night,

A courteous smile may wear,

And sounds of mirth may lightly pass,

Amid the young and fair;

But a tone of heartless mockery,

Its hollowness betrays,

It is not like the joyousness

We felt in other days.

For rare and true the spirits few

That round that fireside meet;

And many a memory garnered there

We never can forget;

Untried in all life's bitterness,

We planned life's future ways,

With that unfettered hopefulness

We felt in other days.

We spoke of love with laughing eyes,

Each bosom free from care;

Of poetry, for then our souls

Nursed visions Heavenly fair;

How warm, how earnest were we then

In aught that won our praise;

For heart and soul all entered in—

The thoughts of other days.

We leave this scene of seeming joy,

With careless smiles we part,

But the memory of happier years

Lies fresh in either heart;

Yet hopes that centre not below,

The deep regret allays;

Of meeting upon earth no more

In the home of other days.