

first be content to climb; "all things must yield to industry and time."

I know that no hard-and-fast rules can be laid down, for individual circumstances must guide individual expenditure, but it is clearly the duty of the head of the family to provide—if ever so little—for a rainy day. So, husbands, one and all, don't say, "I can't do it." Let me quote Mr. Smiles again; he says, "There is no greater cant than can't. . . . When economy is looked upon as a thing that must be practised it will never be felt as a burden, and those who have not before observed it will be astonished to find what a few shillings or pence, laid aside weekly, will do towards securing moral elevation, mental culture, and personal independence. There is dignity in every attempt to economise, it indicates self-denial and imparts strength to character, it fosters temperance, it is based on forethought. Above all, it secures comfort, drives away care, and dispels many anxieties that might otherwise press upon us."

If you have never read Mr. Smiles's "Thrift," purchase a copy at once; it is a book that ought to be read by every person who can think.

Give your wife a fixed sum for housekeeping expenses, as well as for her own clothing, and that of your family; a certain sum should also be laid aside for the replenishing of the household goods and chattels generally; for where money is given out in dribbles and no account kept of the sums, it is so easy to fall into the error of living beyond one's means. Insure your household furniture against loss by fire, the rate of insurance being only about two shillings per cent. And, as life is uncertain, pray don't run the risk of your wife being left a widow, maybe with a young family, and not even the smallest sum in hand to meet current expenses; don't shirk your responsibilities, but by every means in your power provide for those near and dear to you something that shall, at least, "keep the wolf from the door," should you be called away.

Have I seemed to attach undue importance to the value of little things? If so, it is because I know, and feel, that the words which fell of old from the lips of the Master are true to-day as then. Obey His voice, and "gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost."

LIZZIE HERITAGE.

GARDENING IN JANUARY.

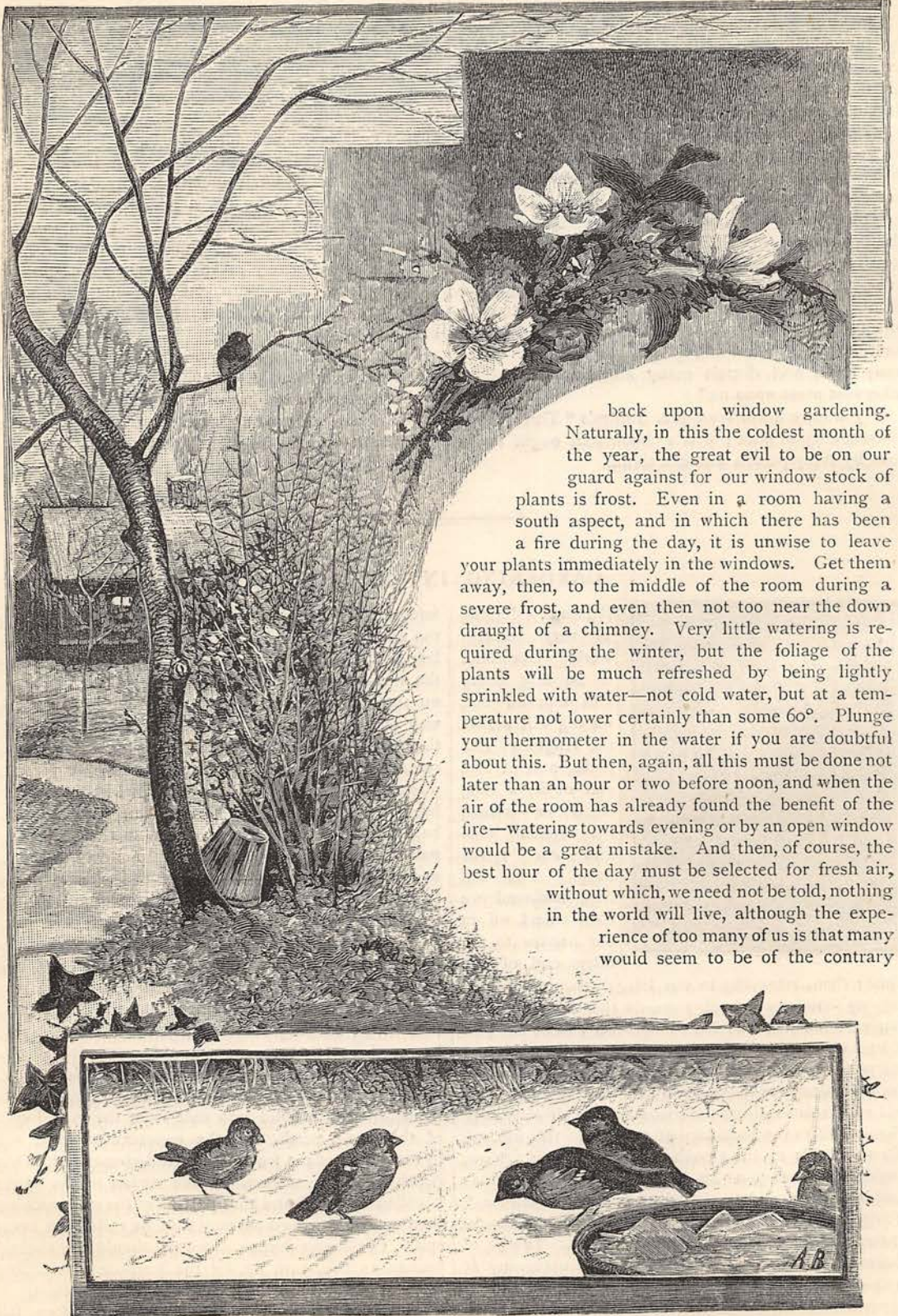


FOR January, digging is very suitable work. Our land to be dug being first marked out, we dig out across the length of this piece, and at one end of it, a long ditch or trench, *one* spade wide and *one* spade deep. The soil thus removed we then wheel off in our barrow to the other end of the

piece; then, returning to our long ditch, we continue digging (having our back towards the mound of soil that we have just wheeled to the other end of the plot of land we are digging), filling up the small trench just in front of us with the soil next to it, turning the soil, too, completely topsy-turvy, and so working on until we find our heels touching the mound of earth originally wheeled off to the boundary of our land: this mound, of course, fills up the trench or ditch *last* dug. Now, "trenching" cannot be better described than as *double* digging, and is therefore exactly "worth *two*" of digging; for the trench that we *now* make should be *two* spades wide and *two* spades deep. This is, of course, a more thorough and complete upturning of the soil, and is proportionately more beneficial to it. It involves twice the labour, twice the exertion there-

fore, that digging does, and is perhaps on that account too often shirked. And now a word about the hoe. A lazy and indifferent way of using it is to merely scrape the surface of the soil, without penetrating or loosing up the soil itself. Of course, the first is the easiest way of going to work, and it involves less trouble; the weeds are broken off short, and their roots remain in the ground. This sort of thing we see at a glance will never do. It is a mistake, by the way, to have too heavy a handle for the hoe, and this perhaps it will be some consolation to the easy-going gardener to hear. A few days' practical experience under a good gardener in matters of this kind is worth twice the amount of theory and description. A few lessons in good all-round manipulation with such things as the pruning-knife, the shears, and even the broom, and, after these, any of the general hints that we have given will, in our humble opinion, be read with greater advantage. Now as to the digging and trenching: so long as the spade can be sent well home, there is no reason why this operation should not be proceeded with even during a hard frost. Indeed, unless of course the frost be so severe as to transform the ground into cast iron, the very burial of the frozen earth, and the exposure of fresh soil to the action of the frost, is positively beneficial. That depth of earth pierced by one action of the spade is called a "spit," and that portion of the soil which we then expose as we go on may thus be called the lower spit. The larger lumps of earth should be slightly broken as they turn up, for the purpose of enabling them to get all the benefit they can from the frost.

Those of us who live in towns very often fall



back upon window gardening. Naturally, in this the coldest month of the year, the great evil to be on our guard against for our window stock of plants is frost. Even in a room having a south aspect, and in which there has been a fire during the day, it is unwise to leave your plants immediately in the windows. Get them away, then, to the middle of the room during a severe frost, and even then not too near the down draught of a chimney. Very little watering is required during the winter, but the foliage of the plants will be much refreshed by being lightly sprinkled with water—not cold water, but at a temperature not lower certainly than some 60°. Plunge your thermometer in the water if you are doubtful about this. But then, again, all this must be done not later than an hour or two before noon, and when the air of the room has already found the benefit of the fire—watering towards evening or by an open window would be a great mistake. And then, of course, the best hour of the day must be selected for fresh air, without which, we need not be told, nothing in the world will live, although the experience of too many of us is that many would seem to be of the contrary

opinion. Our greatest hopes for early display in the windows lie, no doubt, in our bulbs. Now these, whether in pots or in your water-glasses, ought not yet to be removed from your dark cupboard, or not certainly, at least, until they have made a very decided start, after which let them have all the light and warmth you can give them. Mignonette, if well rooted before the winter comes on, ought to keep in bloom through the winter. Its delightful fragrance is certainly preferable to that almost overpowering scent of hyacinths and kindred flowers in the early spring of the year. The fuchsia, too, ought to last on a long time, but a great change of temperature involved by the removal—say, for instance, that of a fine plant that you may perhaps have admired and purchased from a greenhouse, and placed in your window at home—will cause the flowers in all probability to drop off one and all, and we know how sensitive they are to the least touch. The same catastrophe, too, is liable to occur if you give too much water to your fuchsia, or allow it to stand in a saucer with water in it.

Now, in the neighbourhood of London, or indeed of any large city, lovers of horticulture necessarily find a very limited space in which to carry on their craft, and on this account very often pay more attention to window gardening in the absence of a greenhouse. On this subject, therefore, we may, when the time of year calls for more notice of it, have perhaps a few hints to give. And perhaps some of our civic window-and-balcony gardeners may at times have felt disappointed from the fact—which is certainly too often the case—that so many of their evergreens purchased for their purpose die off in a few months. The truth is that a large number of pots of evergreens, and other plants thus bought, have very often only just been potted off hurriedly to meet the demand for them. Now, evergreens, to live under the altered circumstances of which we are speaking—namely, in our windows and balconies—ought to have been well and for some time established in their pots before they are placed there, and not merely to have been recently stuck in for sale. All that is then required for them

is, of course, an occasional watering, as well as a washing of the foliage and stem. You will often notice, as you walk along the streets of a large town, pots of laurels, &c., more than half blackened by smut and dirt, and yet in a seemingly healthy condition. A little sponging, leaf by leaf, would soon remedy all this. The box, and the *Acuba Japonica*, are admirable plants for an old London balcony. Where you can manage it, water with river or rain water; but this, of course, is sometimes a difficulty, and we have to put up with only hard water. We must not, however, devote too much of our space this month to window gardening, as just now, of course, nearly all we can do is to keep alive the little stock of plants and flowers that we have by us already, while the purchase of many from a nursery in this cold month of January would very likely involve their destruction after a cold journey to new and much-changed quarters.

A good warm operation for this month is the felling of an old tree. Sometimes, in a garden of limited space, we cannot always afford room enough for many large trees. The soil under and immediately around them is nearly useless, and we often grudge the demand of this that they make upon us. A great enemy of the pear-tree is the well-known goat caterpillar—the *Cossus ligniperda*; and, when our fruit-tree is thus decidedly attacked by this most destructive pest, it is as well perhaps to decide to part with it. The writer has recently seen a noble pear-tree completely devoured by the goat caterpillar. When cut down it was found that the only way to get rid of the caterpillars was actually to burn the entire tree, trunk and all, as, of course, a very natural alarm was felt in the old garden in which the tree stood for the safety of other fruit-trees. The smoke and heat at last drove numbers of these creatures from their hiding-places. But in the evening it may be we are, for the edification of our young folks, busying ourselves over another sort of tree—the “Christmas tree”—and the great pageant of the Old Year’s funeral is being carried out with all the honours that we can give him.

THE JOY OF LIFE.

LIFE is a very joyous thing,
 Whatever we at times may say!
 The youthful freshness of the spring
 Must drive the winter gloom away,
 And usher in the summer day,
 Till, with the birds, perforce we sing—
 “Life is indeed a joyous thing!”

Life is a very joyous thing!
 Though snows may hide the flowers from sight,
 The young year very soon will bring
 Her loveliest blossoms, pure as light,
 Children of winter, snowy-white,
 And fill our souls with hope, and sing—
 “Life is indeed a joyous thing!”

Life is a very joyous thing!
 Its good is often hard to find,
 Its pleasures fly on rapid wing,
 Its honours vary with the wind;
 Yet still we see, unless we’re blind,
 A hundred reasons why we sing—
 “Life is indeed a joyous thing!”

Life is a very joyous thing!
 Though, one by one, we lose each friend,
 To love and hope we still may cling;
 And if we, like the rushes, bend,
 No blow will kill, and till the end
 Through good and ill we still shall sing—
 “Life is a very joyous thing!”

GEORGE WEATHERLY.

kind than that of a nest of gaping fledglings in the hands of a heedless boy.

The deliberate cruelty of killing birds, especially with poisoned grain, in the breeding season, is almost inconceivable in one who thinks at all. While the pleasant spring day passes, and all nature is returning to fresh life, one pictures the full warm nest, high up in the newly-budded tree, with the slow torture of its helpless family, till every little expectant bill is shut at last, and all is dead and cold.

But I must have done. I said at first that no compassion is shown by the lower animals amongst

themselves. Perhaps I ought to make some exception in the case of dogs. I have known a dog spontaneously and tenderly take a litter of orphaned kittens under its charge. Almost anything, however, may be expected of dogs. We all know the story of the discriminating political dog which was used to fetch a certain "daily" every morning, and on another paper once being offered to him, flatly refused to be the bearer of it. I should not be surprised to hear of such a dog promoting the circulation of the publications of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals by bringing a bundle of them home to his master.

HARRY JONES.

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY.



WALK round the garden in February will show us that its early gaiety is once more beginning to delight us in the shape of the simple crocus and snowdrop. Unpretending as these flowers are, their undeniable popularity lies, we suppose, in the fact of their being almost the first to display their colours after the severity of a long and dreary winter, the worst of which they would fain bid us hope is now over. Perhaps a very few words about them may, therefore, not be out of place at this

season of the year. First, then, as to the crocus. No one, at the outset, requires to be told that the crocus is very hardy. It is certainly marvellously independent of cold weather. How often have we not, when an influenza is keeping us on the fire side of our window-pane, gazed out at its merry yellow head thrusting itself rudely through the white background of the surrounding snow, and almost watched it expanding its petals the very moment that it catches sight of the rays of the sun! And then a little later on in the year, in the month of March perhaps, we notice that our flower is beginning to look very straggling, ragged, and disorderly. The floescence indeed is simply jagged and spoilt, and bears every trace of having fallen a victim to a depredator of some sort. With a little more observation, that depredator we soon discover to be the sparrow. Notice three or four of these fellows at work among your crocuses and having a meal off them. They are paying, in fact, a morning visit to their dispensary, for we recollect that one of the medicinal properties of the crocus is that it is a stimulant. We recollect also that we put saffron in the water that we give to our moulting canaries, so that we wonder the less that the sparrows persist in spoiling our crocuses, when we know that the saffron of our shops is nothing more than the dried and prepared stigmas of the *Crocus sativus*—

those long reddish-orange drooping stigmas with which some of us are familiar. But it is with the horticultural rather than with the medicinal properties of the crocus that we have to deal. The crocus, then, prefers in the way of soil a light sandy loam, and if we are putting in our bulbs with a view of growing for increase, we are careful to select the finest bulbs, and plant them some six inches apart and four deep; and, at any rate, have a good three inches of soil above the crown. Now this bulb-planting generally takes place about October, the month indeed for putting in the generality of bulbs. Some have recommended that the soil be enriched by the addition of a little cow-dung or some rotted turf. In the autumn, seed-pods can be gathered from those that have been well established, or whose floescence you have remarked as particularly fine, but we shall speak presently of raising from seed. The bulbs themselves should not be disturbed until the leaves have well decayed. Sometimes, however, we certainly find it necessary to lift our bulbs carefully in the month of May or June, when we are bedding out, in order to make room for our geraniums and calceolarias, &c.; but we have before frequently given a caution against the fatal and absurd practice of lopping off the bulb foliage for this purpose, and leaving the bulb in the ground. Of course the longer the bulbs remain in the earth, the greater perfection will they attain. The crocus requires no protection and is well able to look after himself. Indeed he gives less trouble than almost any other flower we could name. Now in order to raise crocuses from seed, it is best to sow them immediately after being gathered. This would be about the month of October. As the majority if not all of the seeds may be relied upon to vegetate, sow only thinly and in light dry earth, either in a prepared bed or in large pots or pans or boxes, of course due precaution being taken to drain in the usual manner with holes and potsherds. Carefully rake the seed in so as to cover it, or better still, sift some of your compost through a fine sieve so as to get from a quarter to half an inch of fine soil over your seed. If you have sown in boxes you need not be particular to place them in sheltered situations, and



yet of course you must bear in mind that those violent autumnal rain-storms are liable to wash your seeds away altogether, so that this at all events must somehow be avoided. Perhaps, then, the best thing we can do with our boxes is to put them now under an old garden frame, but at all other times give them plenty of fresh air. By the end of the year, or in the early spring, you will see the little green leaf above the ground, and knowing how wonderfully hardy the crocus is, your boxes now will bear exposure even in frosty weather. The next operation, and a pretty frequent one too, will be a careful weeding by hand. But this must be done when your seedlings are quite young, or they will be robbed by the weeds of all the nourishment on which their successful rearing depends. This weeding, then, will have to go on through the year, as if once the roots of the weeds get entangled

round the small crocus-bulbs, they are liable to be dragged out of the soil. The next season—that is to say, a twelvemonth from the date of your sowing—put half an inch of good soil (similar, of course, to that in which they were originally planted) over your young plants, while at the end of the second season your bulbs may be taken up and planted out in the ordinary way in fresh soil. Indeed some have advocated allowing the seedlings to remain undisturbed for a third season.

Little need be said as to the mode of treatment of so ordinary a flower as the snowdrop. The bulbs should be taken up about Midsummer, and stored away in a dry place until the planting time comes. They are hardy little flowers, like the crocus, and very often we leave them entirely to their fate.

In our green-house in February we are still being quite as watchful against damp as we are against frost, the one being quite as harmful if not more so than

the other; and many a busy day we have this month under our glass in shifting and repotting a large number of our plants. In doing this take care that your plant is not sunk deeper in the new pot than it was in the old one, and see also that the compost is properly mixed up first of all, and that it uniformly surrounds the ball of earth when you have taken it from the old pot and put it in the new and larger one.

In our kitchen and fruit garden we are getting, of course, daily more and more busy now that the heaviest winter months have passed; but we shall be only general this time in our directions concerning them, as we are wishing to give a few hints as to window-gardening; for although this is not a particularly or unusually busy month in this respect, yet each month undeniably calls for some sort of notice of the attention that must be paid to our window-plants, if we wish to see them flourishing.

We may begin, then, our successional pea-sowing—successional, we think, in preference to those two or three large and general sowings which some thoughtlessly prefer to make. A little common sense in the matter will surely obviate the causes of that regret which is too familiar to us, that a garden does not answer because very often for a large part of the year we are almost wholly without green vegetable, except perhaps in the best of the summer months, when everything comes in, we say, at once, and we suddenly find ourselves in possession of enough vegetables to satisfy the craving of a Board school. It is, however, a little too early in the year to begin getting in our other crops, such as our onions, carrots and turnips, &c. But your old cabbage-stumps may be got away and put in close together for the sake of the sprouts. The ground that these old stumps have occupied can then be trenched.

And pruning in the fruit-garden that has been unhappily delayed till now should be forthwith attended to without any further loss of time. Go over the currants and gooseberries, and cut out all their little weakly wood. The gooseberries especially should never be allowed to grow into a thick tangled and unmanageable prickly mass, through which neither air nor sun can penetrate. Take off, too, the tops of the raspberry-canes, making them on a level with their stakes, and have the ground between the plants forked over. Among the strawberry-plants get off all dead leaves, and fork in the manure that ought to have been put round them in the autumn, nor is it too late to manure them now if it were not done then.

As we hinted just now, not much progress can be made as yet in our window-gardening—assuming, that is, that we have no green-house to fall back upon, from which to keep up our supply of plants for our room or window. Fern-cases, or, as we used perhaps

to call them some years ago, or things very like them, Wardian cases, afford great pleasure and amusement. The expense of these sort of cases, of course, varies immensely, but if we are content to go in for utility rather than for ornament, something that would answer the purpose might surely be made to order by any ordinary glazier. Wardian cases used to be made quite plainly, with a span top. Sometimes they were quite closed, and some had their covers removable. The advantage of these cases is that dust is kept from your plants, and a moist atmosphere also is retained, as is evident from the appearance of the glass. Of course your case must be always placed in a light situation, nor should any free and rapid growing plants be put in your case, but merely a few well-chosen ferns, cacti, or orchids. Indeed in the arrangement and management of cases of this kind, taste, ingenuity, and common sense come largely into play. Miniature flower-pots with a small supply of soil tend, of course, to check growth, and the economy of space is a very important thing in a Wardian or fern-case. But in the more ordinary window-gardening, let us add that whenever a thoroughly mild or early spring day comes, put all of your plants outside your window that you possibly can. Unless you are exposed to positive frost, air must be had daily, and even on a cold and bad day have in some air during the best of it. Your bulbs will be assisted by placing them in stands, and a little moss around them too will give a finish to their appearance; hyacinths that are in water might have a small piece of charcoal put in the water. This, it is thought, keeps the water fresh and does away a good deal with the otherwise repeated necessity of changing it. Your cacti will just now require no water, but they want the warmest and the lightest part of the room. Camellias ought now, of course, to be in their perfection of bloom; do not deluge them, but only give them a little water. Cinerarias are a popular February plant; they too want air and to be kept cool, but unhappily they are very liable to be troubled by the green-fly, and some objections would reasonably be raised against the fumigation of the drawing-room with tobacco-smoke, and for this purpose we must remove them for twenty-four hours to the nursery of some good-natured florist. It is really worth while, for the gaiety and popularity of these bright flowers are notorious. All fading leaves should be removed from evergreens. Myrtles, by the way, should not have much water, and they will be improved by the removal of the old soil from the roots and the addition of fresh soil in its place. And this when we are busy outside repotting is more readily attainable. But indeed, in this the first spring month, everything is clamorous for our attention at once, and the more there is to do, the more we gardeners enthusiasts enjoy ourselves.



ing, and some little things for cleaning up brass buttons, belts, and accoutrements.

All the smaller articles of kit have to be kept in order, or renewed if worn out, at the soldier's expense, but the more expensive clothes are given to him fresh at regular intervals. Thus he has a new tunic, and one or two pairs of trousers, and two pairs of boots, every year, and it will be only carelessness or great misfortune if the soldier does not make them last the proper time.

In addition to the "kit" mentioned above, of course all soldiers are supplied with the needful implements of war: rifle and bayonet, pouches for ammunition, a knapsack, &c., and those very useful articles of

clothing in an English climate, which have not been mentioned before—a pair of gaiters, and a big great-coat.

The only other thing to notice here is that if a soldier has to replace any of his outfit, he must get it from the stores of the regiment, and the value of it is deducted from his pay—not necessarily all at once, but a little at a time, so that he may feel the expense as slightly as possible. But as this stoppage of pay for new clothes is one of the most fruitful causes of evil, continually leading men even to desert from the army, the recruit cannot be too strongly urged to take the greatest possible care, so as to avoid what really is a considerable hardship.

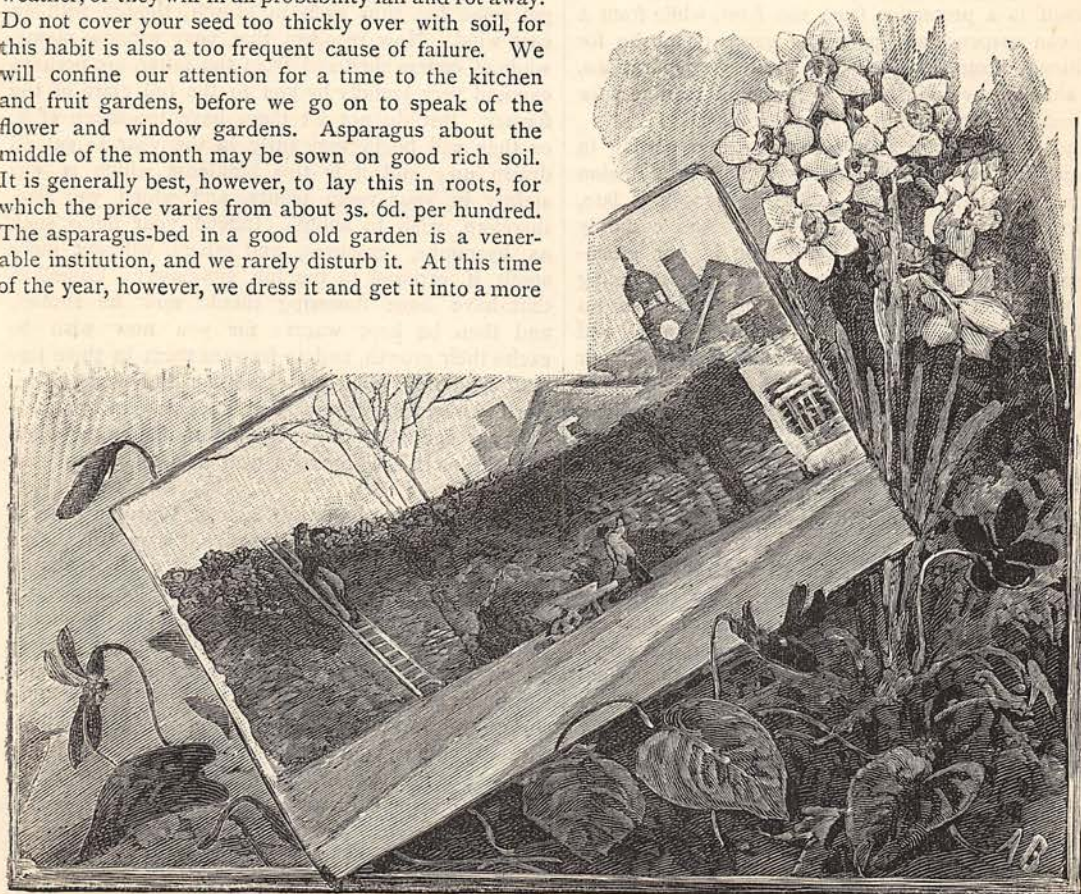
GARDENING IN MARCH.

SINCE the beginning of the year, we have been busy, whenever the state of the weather or of the soil admitted of it, in working well upon our land to get it into a condition good enough—friable, as we call it—for the introduction of seed.

Now that the time has come to sow the seeds, care must be taken that they are not sown in wet and cold weather, or they will in all probability fail and rot away. Do not cover your seed too thickly over with soil, for this habit is also a too frequent cause of failure. We will confine our attention for a time to the kitchen and fruit gardens, before we go on to speak of the flower and window gardens. Asparagus about the middle of the month may be sown on good rich soil. It is generally best, however, to lay this in roots, for which the price varies from about 3s. 6d. per hundred. The asparagus-bed in a good old garden is a venerable institution, and we rarely disturb it. At this time of the year, however, we dress it and get it into a more

marked and defined shape, for the tendency and action of the winter weather is generally to level it a little with the rest of the beds.

Our important potato crop is got in this month; and begin with those of your seedlings which show a disposition to sprout. They like a dry and but



moderately rich soil, and where this is also in a loose and friable condition, it is evident there is less fear of the frost getting at your crop than if the surrounding soil were in lumps. As soon as the potatoes begin to show above ground, any weeds that are near them should be got away from them, and the earth drawn up a little carefully all round them, to shelter them as far as possible from the east wind and frost.

For the peas it is still best as yet to choose a sheltered spot for sowing; while a little earthing up and staking of any that you may already have up is a great help in protecting them alike from the frost and from the birds. For your onion-bed the soil can scarcely be too rich. Get in the main crop by the end of the month. Your onion-seed should be sown in drills about a foot apart and an inch deep. And, to pass somewhat hurriedly by many other kitchen garden matters, to *all* of which we cannot here advert, although they have just now every claim on our attention, we must say a few words about our fruit garden. At once, then, if not done before, we must quite and carefully finish off all nailing and pruning among our peaches and nectarines. This is a very critical month with them, for they are, or ought to be, in full blossom, and we must use every precaution to protect them from the frost. See if you cannot contrive on the top of your wall a little wood or slate coping which will project nearly a foot. This of itself is a protection from the frost, while from it you can suspend any pieces of gauze or muslin for additional protection. All our grafting preparations, too, should now be in hand, and soon in readiness for the usual grafting month of April itself.

And then we are very busy now, too, getting in manure for our hot-beds, our cucumber and melon frames, or even, it may be, where the season is late, getting manure for our land generally. And certainly by the end of the month everything in our greenhouse will be making a tremendous start, and taxing our powers of contrivance to the uttermost; for no doubt we have found plenty of repotting to do, and this involves, besides a demand upon our time and our money which we may be able to meet, a demand also upon our space for which we find it very difficult to contrive. So we give all air that we can, preferring rather to incur a risk by giving too much of it than by giving too little; for do we not know that the more hardy our plants become the sooner are we able to turn them out?

Our beds, too, are gay with all the old-fashioned spring flowers of which we never grow tired—the hyacinths, early tulips, wall-flowers, and those sweet-scented violets. A few words about the cultivation of the violet will be thoroughly appropriate to gardening in March. Now, there is hardly any soil in which it may be said that it *cannot* grow, but perhaps it prefers a rich, light soil or leaf-mould. For growing in beds, choose first a shady situation; turn up the ground and dress with your leaf-mould. Take up plants that have just flowered, and divide them into pieces, all having good roots, to plant

out in your newly-made bed some six inches apart, and water them well. Next season you will find they will completely cover the bed. They are thrown back by cold days, but an actual exposure to the rays of the sun will kill them.

As for the double varieties of the violet, some regard them as only half hardy, and therefore, if you wish to grow them in pots, recollect that the fibres of the roots, which are thought to be the most tender portion of the whole plant, adhere to the side of the pot, and through this the frost, as we know, can very easily penetrate, and your plant—we are supposing it to be standing out in the open—is destroyed. Plunge your pots, then, in this case—and, indeed, we may say any other plants that you may have in pots—up to their rims either in earth, ashes, or sawdust, &c.—in something, in fact, capable of protecting them from the frost; or a garden frame is an admirable thing in which to forward your violets. If you wish, again, to raise violets from seed, sow this month in pans or in boxes, if you cannot afford just now to devote to their use a garden frame. Your violets, next, must not be allowed to grow too thickly; and leave, therefore, three inches between each little plant; and when you thin out, have a bed in some part of your garden already prepared for their reception.

We must, however, have a few words about our window gardening routine this month. Sometimes we get some hot suns even in March, though with an east wind. Now recollect that your window plants, while of course sheltered from the latter, are perhaps exposed very joyfully by you to the full glare of the former. But do not let them have too much of it, or they will begin very early in the year to get all drawn up; and it is this lankiness which is unsightly in your room plants, and which you also, therefore, wish to avoid. Indeed, your bulbs, such as hyacinths, crocuses, and others, will get quite spoilt if exposed to the full sun-power. Camellias that have done flowering should now be shifted, and then be kept warm; for you now wish to excite their growth, and to forward them in their formation of new wood and buds for the next season. For the warmer part of a good day, set your plants—not your camellias, however—out of doors, and when brought back, keep them as near as you can to your glass.

And with regard to your fern or Wardian case, if it has got too dry by this time give it a watering, after having first taken away all dry and dead leaves or plants, and also removing the worn-out soil, replacing it by fresh soil of a character adapted to the plants you are trying to grow. For your room or window plants, always be particular in selecting dwarf and shrub-like ones, and discard the tall and sickly. The spring, whose return once again we one and all hail with delight, calls upon us lustily, however, to make the best of the time in the open air; but for those who have little land on which to labour, or feeble health to do so, if they had, window gardening is always an unfailling source of satisfaction and interest.

GARDENING IN APRIL.



HE rapidly advancing spring finds us once again in a state of horticultural excitement, taxing our ingenuity to the utmost as to the best method of classifying our work. This month, at all events, the idlest or least enthusiastic amongst us cannot have the audacity to ask what is there to do in the garden. We all of us know, only too well, that the question now is, what shall we do first? where shall we turn next? In our flower garden we are occupied just now in getting in our annuals, and for this we always prefer a rich light soil. And as our very natural desire is to keep up an unbroken and bright display of flowers for as long as we can, we recommend the sowing of annuals monthly quite up to the end of July. In a season such, for example, as that we had last year, it is astonishing to find how long flowers, set out in fairly favourable situations, will go on blowing. Not to lose any of the finer months of the year, early in the spring, then, we raise a few of the more tender annuals, and even of the hardy ones also, in heat, ready by the middle of May perhaps, or earlier, in accordance with the temperature of the season, to plant them out, or plunge them, pot and all, into our beds to take the place of our hyacinths or other bulbs that have done blowing. In this month of April, however, our bulbs are of course in all their perfection of bloom, and a few general directions, therefore, as to the management of our tulips may not be out of place at this time.

Notice then, first, how slender is their stalk and how top-heavy their cup-like floescence makes them, and then go and take a turn among the tulip-beds, where perhaps little care has been bestowed upon them, just after one of those April snow and hail squalls. Already the sky may be blue again, and the sun comparatively warm, but there are half the poor tulips destroyed—some cut completely off and lying on the ground. And first, then, as to the selection of the situation for our tulip-bed. It is very evident, from what we have noticed of them, that a protection, as far as we can give it, from boisterous winds is positively necessary to their well-being. Choose, then, a south aspect—but your wall, hedge, or wooden paling, or whatever it may be that serves for your protection of them, should not certainly exceed some seven feet in height, otherwise your tulips may be either drawn up, or more or less deprived of light.

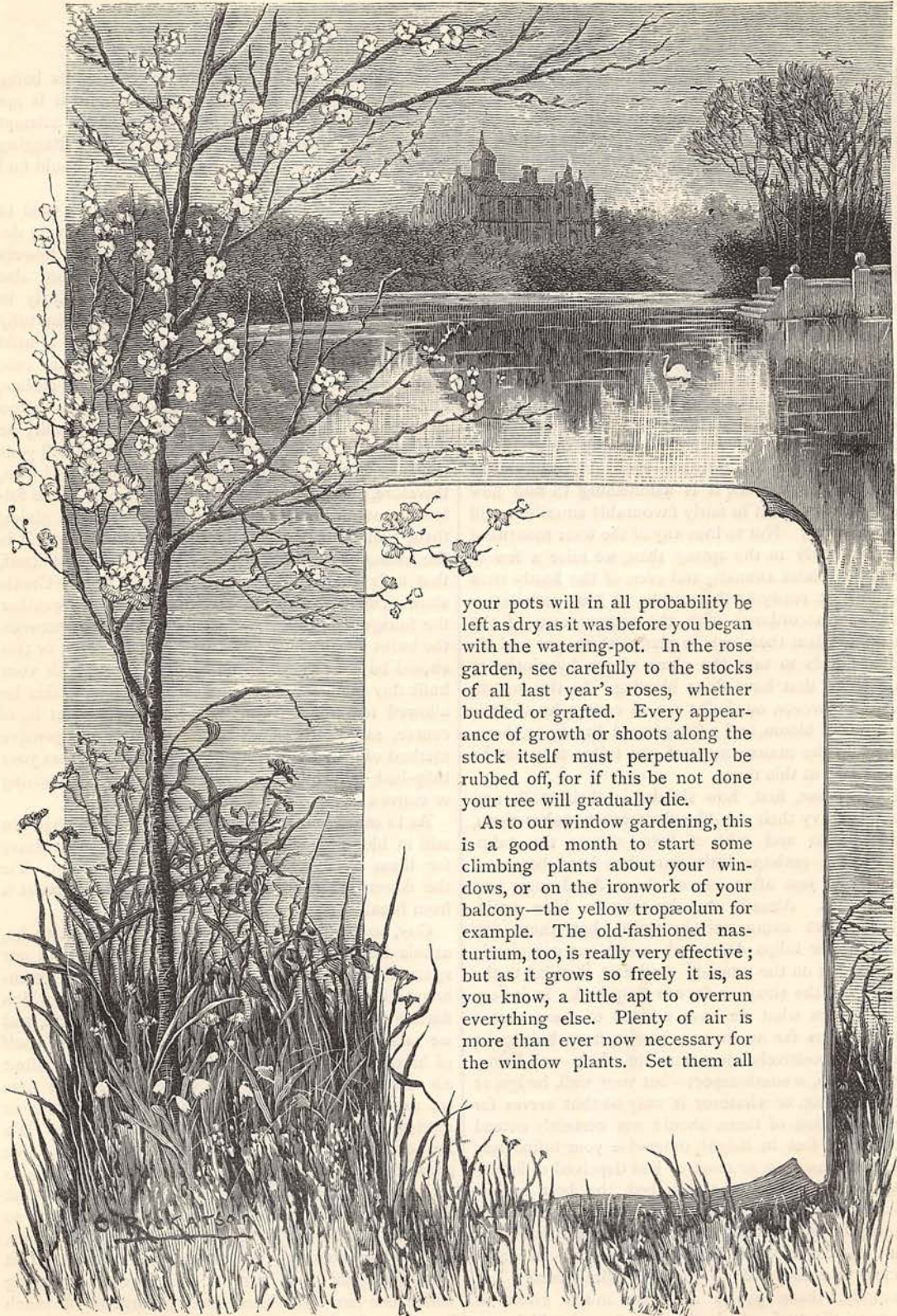
As to the soil for the tulip-bed, the best is perhaps loam, with a little leaf-mould mixed with it. A quantity of old decayed turf would do admirably for your bed, but break it well up first of all in order to clear it entirely of all grubs or wire-worms; for, unhappily, these gentry are very much given to patronise the turf. And your soil, too, should be so

well-proportioned and mixed as to allow of its being readily stirred, for if the loam predominate it is apt to get consolidated after heavy rain, when the attempt to disturb it soon afterwards would involve dragging the bulbs about as well, and the gardener would find himself in difficulties.

Too much attention, then, can scarcely be paid to the proper preparation of the soil in nearly every department of gardening—whether among the flowers or the fruits and vegetables. It is important also to see well to the drainage of the bed. Early in November is the best time for putting in your tulip bulbs. It is a mistake, and especially in a mild climate, to put them in too soon, for in this case they are liable to make a start proportionately earlier, and then if a sudden severe season sets in, as is too often the case, your plants will in all probability be cut off. Not, perhaps, until the end of April will your tulips be in full bloom, when in the open; and it is, therefore, during March and the earlier part of the following month that the greatest watchfulness in giving them protection against the frost is necessary. It is the bloom more particularly, and not the plant itself, that feels the injurious effects of the frost. Gentle showers do them no harm, and in really dry weather the foliage may be syringed. The soil, too, between the bulbs should have been stirred last month, or this should be not any longer delayed. Cut out with your knife any incipient canker on the foliage, as if this be allowed to extend to the bulb itself your plant is, of course, sacrificed. One easy and fairly inexpensive method of protection is to fix some hoops across your tulip-bed, and then to throw across them old matting or canvas.

As to other bulbs, such as your hyacinths, that are still in bloom, a little support is sometimes necessary for them where the floescence is very heavy. Tie the flower carefully to any small stake, to prevent it from breaking off short in gusty weather.

Gay, however, as our bulb show is, or ought to be, at this time of the year, we must not devote all our space to directions concerning it. As to our greenhouse, then, it is our last month of the season which finds it still crammed with our bedding-out stock, and we take every available opportunity that offers itself of hardening off our plants. For instance, we admit air more freely night and day, while at the same time we are careful not to allow any boisterous gales or cutting draughts of air to find their way inside. We fumigate, too, in order to get rid of anything like green-fly, to which, perhaps, an overcrowded house is rather more liable; and we syringe freely, or at least flood our pathways or the walls of our house, so that the vapour given off may nourish our plants. And, when watering the plants themselves, do it thoroughly, for that hurried and careless watering which one so often sees done is seldom of much benefit to the plants, for the lower part of the soil in



your pots will in all probability be left as dry as it was before you began with the watering-pot. In the rose garden, see carefully to the stocks of all last year's roses, whether budded or grafted. Every appearance of growth or shoots along the stock itself must perpetually be rubbed off, for if this be not done your tree will gradually die.

As to our window gardening, this is a good month to start some climbing plants about your windows, or on the ironwork of your balcony—the yellow *tropæolum* for example. The old-fashioned *nasturtium*, too, is really very effective; but as it grows so freely it is, as you know, a little apt to overrun everything else. Plenty of air is more than ever now necessary for the window plants. Set them all

outside every morning, taking them in again as the afternoon advances; syringe them too in the morning. Many of your plants may doubtless now want shifting into larger pots; but if you want them to flower early, keep them still in the smaller pots, and a little liquid manure will do them good. Those of your hyacinth bulbs that are in flower must be shaded from the sun, and afterwards, if your bulbs were put in a favourable situation, they can be planted next October in your flower garden. The mimulus does well for the window, either in a pot or in boxes. Give it a rich loam soil, and keep it watered while it is growing. A few annuals may now, perhaps, be introduced into your Wardian case, but see first of all that everything you introduce is perfectly free from insects. As for your window cinerarias, when they have done blooming—and no doubt by this time this is nearly the case—cut your plants well back and set them out in a cool situation, when they can afterwards be either fresh potted or planted out in about a month's time. The leaves of your myrtle or orange plants in your room must be well sponged, otherwise the foliage becomes in process of time neither more nor less than black; and you will find yourself well rewarded by a day's work of this kind, though the operation is certainly a tedious one, and the progress made at the outset may seem slow. In our fruit garden grafting is, where necessary, vigorously going on. On this subject we must refer our readers to what we said concerning it in our April number of last year; and in addition to this we are busy, too, disbudding and keeping a look-out against the early caterpillar. But it is generally about the middle of May that we find the caterpillar for the first time occupied upon the foliage of our currants and gooseberries. Two of our very popular fruits, the fig and the mulberry, are always late in putting out their shoots. As for the fig, if not already done, have it nailed at once, while any shoots that are most forward may be thinned, but only a little. It is certainly late in the season to attempt it, but the mulberry-tree may yet be planted. Let it be upon your lawn, where the fruit as it falls does not hurt or spoil so much as it otherwise would upon soil or gravel. The mulberry does not like a heavy loam, but an old tree is a good deal restored by a rich manure. The mulberry is a fruit-bearing tree up to a wonderful age. The writer

has seen one in this country traditionally thought to be going on for nearly 400 years old. It was supported and propped up in all directions, but was vigorous in many parts of it. Not much pruning of the mulberry is necessary, but a little attention should be paid to its head in the winter season. Like the vine, when first put in it likes a foundation of brickbats, but does not at all approve of being cut or pulled about when the sap is up and it is in a growing state, and it is for this reason that we have recommended anything in the way of pruning being attended to in the winter time, during good open weather. About this time we usually cease to be anxious about protecting our wall-fruit; and as to the plums, it has often been thought that much fruit is lost from not thinning out the superabundant blossom. Among the strawberries, except in places where you want to secure a supply of young plants, do not allow the runners to get ahead, but have them removed in good time before your plant, and therefore your fruit, is weakened by allowing them to remain on too long. In our kitchen garden, we go on with our fortnightly sowing of peas and beans. The spinach, too, should be sown pretty often, and carefully thinned after it has been up some little time; and about the middle of the month sow your full beet-root crop in rows some fifteen inches apart. The ground ought to have been manured some time previously, as if this were done only just before your beet is sown, it has been thought that it may afterwards grow what is called forked. Celery, too, may now be sown in slight heat, and afterwards pricked out carefully in the ordinarily and richly prepared beds, due precaution being, as usual, taken not to injure the heart of your young plants by choking them with soil or by careless handling. Mustard and cress will thrive nearly anywhere. Get the mustard in a couple or three days before the cress; and then the cucumber and melon frames will want watching now that we have just started them. If they were put up a month ago, a little lining with fresh manure, should a very cold season have intervened since their erection, might be beneficial to them. Our lawn, too, is having its first crop removed by this time, and this of itself, no matter how small it may be, presses heavily upon our gardening time when we are making a sort of rush to get everything into summer trim at once.

THE MODEL MISTRESS OF A HOME.

A HAPPY HOME WELL ORDERED. BY A PRACTICAL HOUSEWIFE.

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

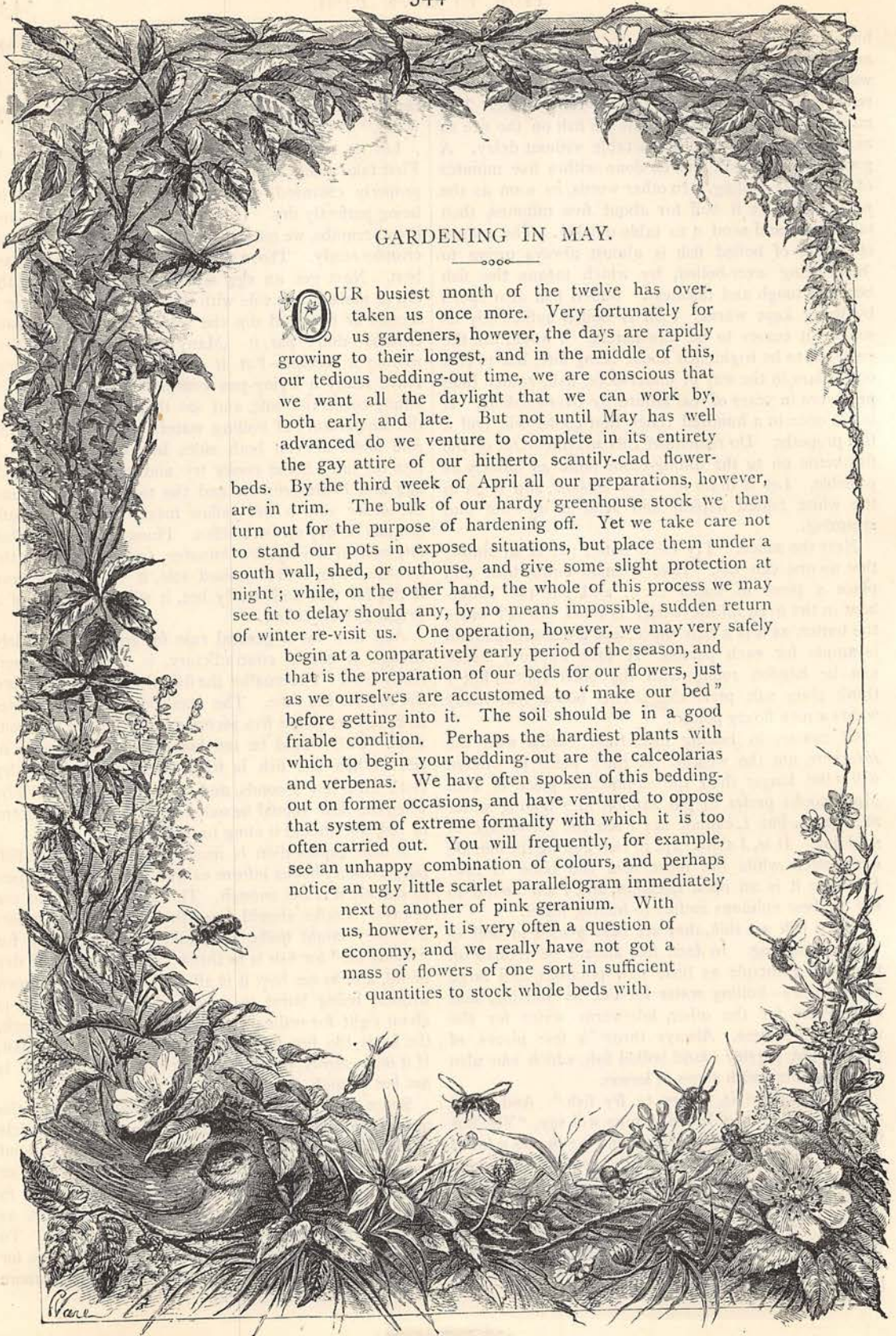
WOMAN is queen of the kingdom of home. On the mistress mainly depends the happiness of its inmates, who, in nine cases out of ten, take their tone from her. It is due to her influence that peace, affection, mental cultivation, and cheerfulness pervade the household. While insuring their comfort, she must also command their respect,

at the expense of much constant self-denial and self-control—I had almost said self-effacement.

Few girls when they marry have any practical knowledge with regard to household management. Men are trained for their future life, but how many mothers instruct their daughters as to the approximate consumption of bread, meat, &c., per head; what things are in season during the several months; the amount of loss that food undergoes in course of cooking, or the articles actually needed for kitchen

GARDENING IN MAY.

OUR busiest month of the twelve has overtaken us once more. Very fortunately for us gardeners, however, the days are rapidly growing to their longest, and in the middle of this, our tedious bedding-out time, we are conscious that we want all the daylight that we can work by, both early and late. But not until May has well advanced do we venture to complete in its entirety the gay attire of our hitherto scantily-clad flower-beds. By the third week of April all our preparations, however, are in trim. The bulk of our hardy greenhouse stock we then turn out for the purpose of hardening off. Yet we take care not to stand our pots in exposed situations, but place them under a south wall, shed, or outhouse, and give some slight protection at night; while, on the other hand, the whole of this process we may see fit to delay should any, by no means impossible, sudden return of winter re-visit us. One operation, however, we may very safely begin at a comparatively early period of the season, and that is the preparation of our beds for our flowers, just as we ourselves are accustomed to "make our bed" before getting into it. The soil should be in a good friable condition. Perhaps the hardiest plants with which to begin your bedding-out are the calceolarias and verbenas. We have often spoken of this bedding-out on former occasions, and have ventured to oppose that system of extreme formality with which it is too often carried out. You will frequently, for example, see an unhappy combination of colours, and perhaps notice an ugly little scarlet parallelogram immediately next to another of pink geranium. With us, however, it is very often a question of economy, and we really have not got a mass of flowers of one sort in sufficient quantities to stock whole beds with.



There is, however, one pretty display of flowers which is for the most part in its perfection in the month of May. It is alike simple, very effective, and inexpensive; and many of our smaller and cottage gardens tempt us to linger for a moment to look at them as we pass by, and gaze at the pansy display. Perhaps, then, we may with advantage this month have a few words to say about pansies. And first, then, as to the soil best adapted for their growth. Let a good half of it be made up of rotted turf; and with the turf mix some peat and manure from some unused cucumber-frame: these two last in about equal proportions. Next, as to situation for the pansy. The pansy seems to thrive best in any spot where it can find shelter from the fiercer rays of the sun, and is not exposed to be torn about by rough winds. Indeed, a mere examination of its soft and velvet-like delicate petals at once tells us that a cutting wind would probably be almost fatal to its successful growth. But, on the other hand, our pansies like a fairly open situation, where at least they are less likely to be troubled by slugs; in the heat of the summer, however, they are difficult to keep in constant bloom, unless frequent waterings and partial shade be given. If your pansy be a good or favourable specimen, and you want to preserve it, take from it at once a few cuttings. Your cuttings will strike well under a hand-glass with some protection, by means of matting or even stout paper, from the rays of the sun. As we stated at the outset, May is usually our best month for pansy display; but if our object be to keep up their bloom as long as possible, give first of all in dry weather, either early or late in the day, copious waterings; and here, again, avoid splashing soil and dust on your flowers, for this once upon them ruins their beauty, and a mud-splash would entail very decidedly the loss of a prize in a bloom exhibition. Now, the seed of the pansy may be sown from April to July in boxes, or pans, or good broad pots, &c., but careful watering and shading are then necessary. When large enough to handle, plant them out, some six inches or thereabouts apart. Pansies sown from April to June ought to bloom before the following autumn is over. We must not, however, devote too much of our space in this overcrowded gardening month to pansy cultivation.

As for our window gardening, from this time and for the next five or six months, it is our own fault if our window display be not as gay as we can make it, there is so much to select from among the early summer flowers with which to fill up any gaps; and, indeed, nearly all half-hardy plants—such, for example, as geraniums, fuchsias, and calceolarias—may be placed out permanently on your balcony or window-ledge. But we must not forget, on the other hand, that this is the month for east winds, and with, especially in the earlier part of it, occasional frosts; we should, therefore, recommend that the window plants, when this is the case, be taken in at night. Be sure and have all your window garden plants thoroughly well potted; and it is also advisable to use large pots for this situation, as so much of the surface being exposed to the action

of the sun, your plants are very liable to suffer injury from the speedy drying up of the soil inside. Some have suggested mixing up with the soil lumps of free-stone or charcoal, or, indeed, any porous substance. These act as a sort of reservoir of moisture, for they absorb plentifully when you water your plant, and afterwards, when the soil becomes dry, your charcoal lump will naturally give out moisture. All climbing plants for your window-frame should now be got into order; they are most effective: such, for example, as the convolvulus major or the yellow *trapaolum*; or, indeed, for rapid growth, why not try the experiment of some hops? Then, again, all trailing plants look well when allowed to hang down from a window-ledge; but in order to manage this well, your plants should have been put early in the season into pots sufficiently large to allow room for the roots to develop themselves, as when once started it is somewhat difficult to move them afterwards without checking them, and if they are at all in an advanced state, you would be liable to break and snap off some of the long hanging tendrils. The plants in the Wardian or fern-cases must be watered when necessary, and any that are showing a disposition to straggle beyond bounds should be pruned. The whole position of your case, too, might be occasionally changed with advantage, so as to avoid allowing light and shade to fall always on the same parts.

Our greenhouse will this month be very considerably emptied out; but we must not forget the future of other flowers, and more particularly those upon which we depend for our autumn display—such, for example, as our chrysanthemums. Of these we should now part the old roots, and perhaps re-pot them; or we might turn them all out, and let them grow in rows, so as to get a supply of strong cuttings and layers later on; but the first method is perhaps the best for producing larger and tall plants.

In our kitchen garden we are as far as possible going on with our successional sowings of peas and other vegetables—trying, in fact, to avoid that too common mistake of letting everything come in upon us at once; but always take care that the ground is well prepared for the various crops you are getting in, and never allow a crop to be sown on the same ground from which one of a similar class has just been removed. Frequently, too, when pricking and thinning out, we find we have sown a good deal more than was necessary, and we learn a lesson from this, while, perhaps, we are able to effect a fortunate exchange of young plants with a neighbour, and save a whole month's growth. Then the potatoes must be carefully earthed up, for they will now be going tremendously ahead; the asparagus-bed, too, will want weeding; and do not cut too much from it, particularly where your roots are young. Our cucumber-frames will require constant attention. Do not, for instance, be too late in shutting up the frames in the afternoon, but try to lock up some of the sun-heat with your plants; nor, on the other hand, must you allow them to be scorched in the middle of the day. A little forgetfulness or delay in closing up may admit more of the evening

east wind and chill than is good for your plants. This month is one for working among the strawberry blossoms, and a little labour here is always well bestowed just now. The runners must certainly be at once removed: an operation so often carelessly or only half done, and sometimes neglected altogether. Then some tan or short grass from your lawn must be put down round them, to preserve the fruit from being damaged by the earth. Our mowing machine, which is now of course in weekly use, is able to give us shorter and finer grass; but tan is preferable rather, because slugs decidedly object to it, which is certainly more than they do to the strawberries. By the end of this month we are thinning our gooseberries for bottling, and keeping an anxious look-out among them for the caterpillar, so that where we fear the approach of this pest, we dust with soot, wood-ashes, or lime. Brushing them off quickly into some vessel

underneath unhappily takes up almost more time than we can spare. And currants must now again be thinned of their young wood; cut off from their tops all those bright green shoots and leaves that you see at the end of every branch. If these are allowed to remain on, your trees will be weakened, and your fruit poor; besides, the air and sun must be admitted to the base of the trees to colour and ripen the fruit. The peaches and nectarines will want very cautious thinning. If your trees are very luxuriant, perhaps a good crop upon them will beneficially check them; while if they are not in a strong condition, you might materially damage your trees by allowing too much fruit to ripen upon them. In fact, circumstances, weather, the season, the soil, the early or tardy arrival of spring, all these things affect us in the course we pursue. Our past winter was singularly mild, and our autumn to come, let us hope, will be singularly prolific.

THE VILLAGE MAY-DAY.

FILLED up with sacks, to yonder town
The great mill-waggon lumbers down;
Drawn by three horses, tall and strong,
The great mill-waggon rolls along.

The miller's smock is clean and new,
And smart with ribbons, red and blue;
And tinkling bells on bridle-rein
Have made the stately horses vain.

And every year the first of May
Is made the village holiday:
The school is closed: the children run
In meadows smiling with the sun.

And now before the mill they wait,
While some, impatient, climb the gate,
And shout with glee, when drawing near
The loudly rumbling wheels they hear.

And soon the horses loom in sight,
With gay rosettes and harness bright,
While close beside the leader's head
The miller walks with sturdy tread.

Long may the festive day come round
And find the miller hale and sound,
And may his goods increase, and still
The great wheel turn his busy mill.

J. R. EASTWOOD.

THE ART OF WATER-COLOUR LANDSCAPE PAINTING.

IN TWO PAPERS.—FIRST PAPER.

COLOUR is to the artist what expression is to the musician; a sketch in black and white, however well drawn, is not comparable to one glowing with rich transparent colours, provided the latter be equally well executed. To secure that transparency of tone which is the great charm of water-colour drawing, the best materials should be employed. Large brushes conduce to a broad style of working. Moist colours in pans will be found most suitable, especially for out-door work.

We give a short list of the colours most often required in water-colour drawing:—

Yellows.—Yellow ochre, gamboge, Indian yellow, and cadmium yellow.

Reds.—Vermilion, Venetian red, light red, Indian red, lake, pink madder, and rose madder.

Blues.—Cobalt, French blue, indigo, and Prussian blue.

Brown madder, purple madder, raw and burnt sienna are also useful.

The colours have been thus divided:—"As a broad rule, in skies use opaque colours, but occasionally indigo, lamp-black, and pink madder are admissible. For middle distances, mixture of semi-transparent. Fore-grounds, transparent." While it is not absolutely necessary for the artist to have all these colours in his box, yet it is desirable that he should have experience in the working and in the qualities of all, as he may be called upon to use them at some period, and may miss the tint he requires by not having them at hand.

The paper must be well and carefully stretched. First lay it on a clean table or on a sheet of paper,

in position, or faulty in form, the painting is so far worthless; but if, on the contrary, they are telling, mark out the strong features, and add strength and character to the objects they are intended to enhance, they stamp the picture at once as a work of art.

Tints are lightened and high lights taken out in various ways—artists use one or more of them as occasion demands. Experience will teach which is most suitable to carry out a desired effect. Soft feathery clouds may be taken out with blotting-paper while the wash is still wet, or during the laying of a wash the same brush may be used in a drier state to lighten any part of the tint. Blotting-paper folded, and the edges torn off, may be used on a wash while wet in parts that require high lights; when dry, the tint is rubbed with a clean cloth or silk handkerchief, and the lights remain clear. High lights may be also scraped out with a penknife when the painting is quite dry; the ripples on water are imitated naturally in this manner. Pumice-stone finely powdered, sifted, then sprinkled on the drawing and rubbed round with the fingers, is said to produce aerial effects, and the use of a piece of soft flannel with plenty of water is also advised.

The student can complain of no want of means for procuring certain appearances that he desires to obtain: the principal thing is to use them one and all with caution; for although he is enabled thus to pro-

duce beautiful effects legitimately, yet he should remember that if over-done and used too freely, a coarse rough picture will be the result. He may paint in his lights with Chinese white, or white mixed with colour, if he prefers it to the other methods, but many strongly object to the employment of any body colour whatever.

The artist should invariably work at a distance from his picture, and when putting in those parts that require him to work more closely, he should rise now and again, and view it from some distance. Especially in adding the last touches is it important that he should stand back from the painting, that he may be enabled to know more certainly where they can be used with the greatest advantage. Greater freedom and a broader manner is thus gained than by sitting close to the paper and working with minute touches, that are only permitted in the finishing up of a miniature. Ruskin, in his "Modern Painters," says:—"From young artists in landscape, nothing ought to be tolerated but simple, *bona fide* imitation of Nature. They have no business to ape the execution of masters, to utter weak and disjointed repetitions of other men's words, and mimic the gestures of the preacher, without understanding his meaning or sharing his emotions. Their duty is neither to choose, nor compose, nor imagine, nor experimentalise; but to be humble and earnest in following the steps of Nature and tracing the finger of God."

GARDENING IN JUNE.



NC E more we have come round to the roseate month of the year, when every gardener is—or ought to be—in full work, for our days are at the longest; and the weather, too, is as a rule not too violently hot for exertion in the month of June. By the end of May then, or early in the month upon which we have just

entered, our green-house to a very great extent is empty, for all our bedding-out stock has been turned out to take its chance in the open. We never allow our green-house to be idle, least of all in the gayest of the summer months; but, where we are growing no grapes, it is as well certainly to select some time between June and Michaelmas for any necessary repairs in the way of carpenter's work or painting, so that when the season comes round for storing away all our stock of August cuttings, &c., everything may be in readiness to receive them. No house ought to go more than three years without *outside* painting. It is a very false economy to allow a longer time than this to elapse without the painter's visit, for, owing to the constant and full exposure to the sun and the rain, the woodwork and frame generally, where paint is absent, become liable to decay, and in addition to this the putty cracks and slips off, the wet begins to find

its way through, your plants are spoiled by the drip, while the glass on the first gale is liable to rattle down with a smash. Once rid, then, of our bedding-out work, we give our house a thorough cleaning out, and afterwards make a selection of our most showy, least hardy, and best-grown plants, and place them at intervals along our stand, at a distance from each other proportionate to the number of plants at our disposal; or we retain, for example, any plants requiring a hot sun to develop their floescence, such as some of the large lily tribe. One or two orange-trees or large myrtles, geraniums on a large scale, and some tall and fine fuchsias will perhaps make up our summer conservatory display. If we are able to add to it in the endless variety of ways that could be suggested, so much the better.

Or, now that we have more room in our green-house, we can turn our attention to the growth inside of a few tender annuals, while any seedling plants that we have perhaps recently raised may be potted, our object being so to forward them and get them well established by the fall of the year. We shall want the watering-pot pretty frequently, for nothing is more hurtful to plants that are growing rapidly than a slack water-supply. And yet the soil must not be actually saturated, though the plant should be getting *nearly* dry before a fresh watering is given. Never,

however, allow a plant to begin to droop before you water it. Pay a little attention just now to the preparation of your chrysanthemums. If they have been growing pretty freely, place them out of doors. They want plenty of light and air, but should not be in too large pots, at least at this time of the year. A little liquid manure will do them good. If you want eventually to have them dwarf, shrubby, and strong plants, keep them in their small pots till August; then, in the course of that month, pot them some two sizes larger, and in so doing coil a part of the stem under the soil. In this operation, if you are afraid of breaking the stem off short—as we should say—let the plant wither slightly before you make your attempt, it will by that means become more pliable. Water will soon revive your plant when re-potted.

We have not, however, space to devote much attention to many individual flowers. One exception we may though, perhaps, make, and say a few words about the cultivation of a very popular favourite, the pink. The richness and variety in its colour, as well as its clove scent, combine to make it rank amongst the gayest and most desirable for our flower garden. And first, then, as to the best situation and soil for our pinks. Nothing very out-of-the-way is necessary for the soil beyond that recommended for many other flowers: good decayed turf, taken from our heap of that material which we ought always to have in stock; and then there is the usual precaution also to be had, namely, the picking out from it of all grubs and any sort of vermin that takes delight in feasting on the root. Or, failing our turf-heap, we must have recourse to our ordinary soil; but this, at any rate, must be dressed with some three or four inches of decayed manure or cow-dung. This must, of course, be well mixed with your garden soil. Should you desire to raise your pinks from seed, the seed should, of course, have been originally saved from the most perfect flowers, or from the choicest varieties. The seed should have been kept in its pod until the time for sowing has arrived, and this is in the month of March or April, and under a frame in soil such as has been described; then, when your young plants are large enough to admit of it, prick them out, and plant them with some three or four inches between each. Here they can remain till they bloom, and, if you have a large assortment, go over them carefully, marking all those that are imperfect, or only single in their bloom, for speedy removal. It is important to get them out of the way before they spoil others by their seed.

Very effective in your garden is a fine set of pinks, carnations, and picotees—for they are all of the same family—arranged along a stand during their blooming season, the great variety of their shade and colour being always charming. Thus much, then, for our pinks; and we must now hurry away in this long month to another branch of our gardening subject. And while speaking of flowers in particular we may as well at once advert to our window-garden display. And in the month of June there ought surely to be no difficulty in having this

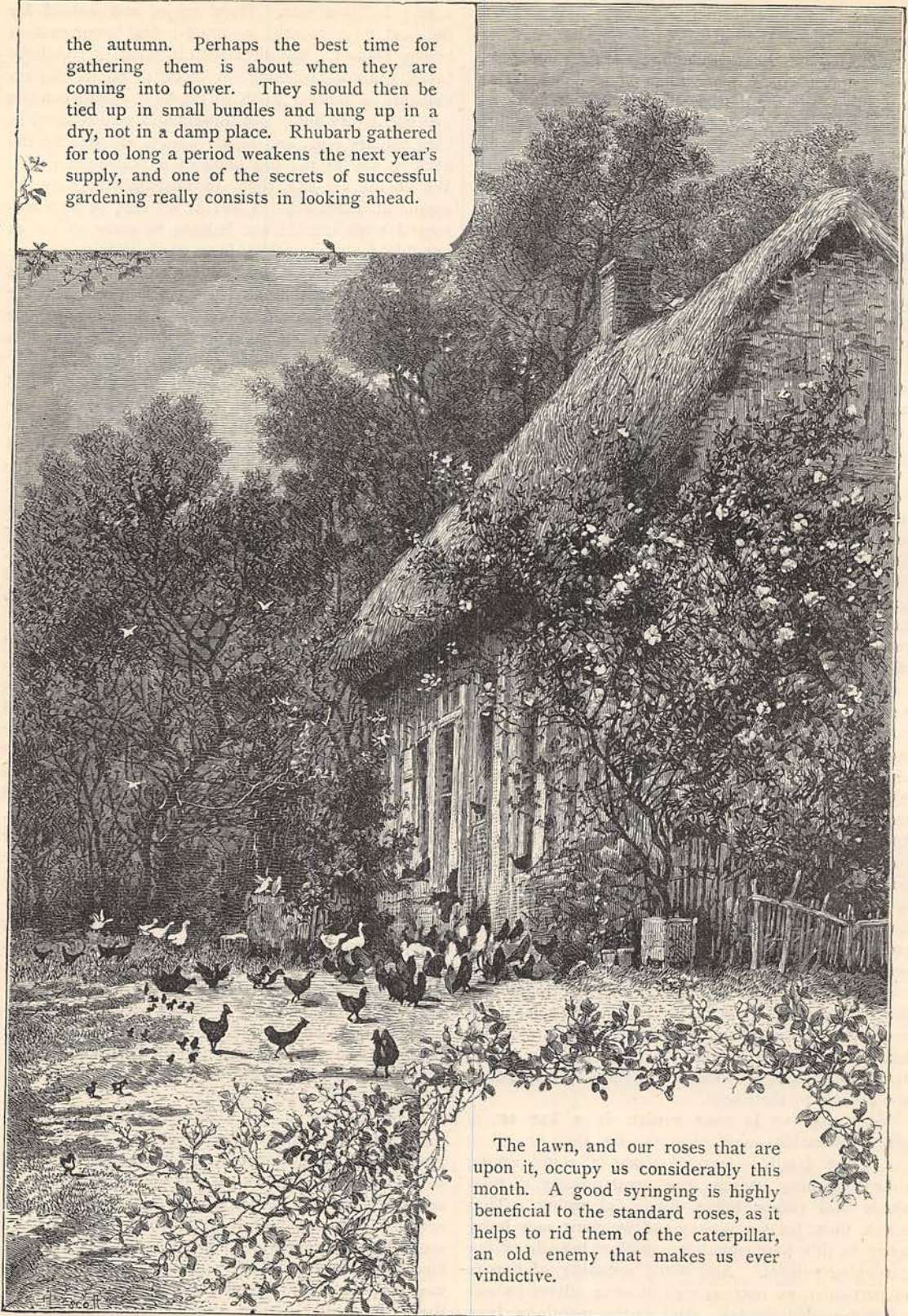
a very brilliant one. Here again, and indeed for the next three months, we must redouble our caution in one respect. Recollect that in what is popularly called window-gardening our stock of plants has no moisture of mother earth to fall back upon when the weather is very hot. Our flowers and shrubs stand in their solitary pots, and nearly always exposed for the lifelong day to the full blaze of a midsummer sun. We do all we can, then, to husband moisture by means of moss kept as wet as we can, or by ornamental work outside our balcony to serve as far as possible for a protection from the sun's rays; or we stand our flower-pots inside a larger one: this last is as good a remedy as any, the chief drawback being that it makes a large demand upon the space at our disposal. Moss pushed down between the pots, too, is an admirable plan for husbanding moisture.

A good amalgamation of colour in the window just now is a scarlet geranium, a nice shrubby yellow calceolaria, a good deep-coloured blue lobelia, and a fuchsia; but do not let your plants stand all huddled and crowded up together, as touching each other involves entanglement, and their after disentanglement as often results in a breakage. Give copious waterings after sunset, and keep the foliage of your flowers free from dust. If you are attempting the cultivation of the popular maiden-hair fern, bear in mind that this likes moist heat, but no sun's rays, which in a day or two would destroy it.

Turning to our fruit and vegetable garden, we hope to find everything in rich luxuriance in leafy June. Unhappily those caterpillars upon our gooseberries and currants never seem to forget the beginning of the "leafy" season; but it is a fatal mistake to suppose that, since we find our fruit in its green state and apparently intact, therefore the caterpillar is doing us no wrong in considering himself entitled to the leaves. A leafless gooseberry or currant-bush will only result in fruit that is still green and sour in July when it ought to be red, so never declare a truce with the caterpillar. The gooseberries, however, must be thinned uniformly for bottling: by uniformly we mean going over all the bushes and not stripping one or two entirely. Then the wall-fruit must be likewise thinned, and so must the grapes. Get away the strawberry-runners, and water in a very dry season. The fruit as it ripens becomes a prey to the blackbirds and starlings, not to mention the slugs. Some tan is a good preventive to the last-named, while net-work, and early rising for garden-work, are a considerable check upon the birds.

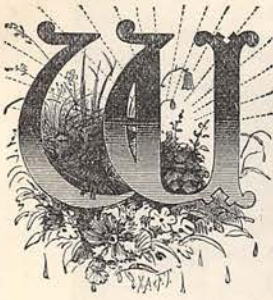
In our kitchen garden, which ought now to look and to be well stocked, perhaps our chief labour lies this month in keeping down that superabundant supply of weeds. If this be not done, our young and growing crops will be seriously damaged. And then the early-sown beans must be topped and the potatoes earthed up. The fortnightly sowings, too, of peas may be continued where you have space for it, and spinach may also be got in. Nor forget this year to gather the herbs earlier in the season, instead of allowing them to grow on until almost rank and coarse in

the autumn. Perhaps the best time for gathering them is about when they are coming into flower. They should then be tied up in small bundles and hung up in a dry, not in a damp place. Rhubarb gathered for too long a period weakens the next year's supply, and one of the secrets of successful gardening really consists in looking ahead.



The lawn, and our roses that are upon it, occupy us considerably this month. A good syringing is highly beneficial to the standard roses, as it helps to rid them of the caterpillar, an old enemy that makes us ever vindictive.

GARDENING IN JULY.



WE are again in the first of our harvest months. Everything about and around us is luxuriant. The birds, too, are quite of our opinion that the brilliant red of the strawberries and currants is most inviting. With the object, therefore, of avoiding any practical expression of the sympathy of the feathered tribe, we resolve to protect our fruit by means of net-work; while, on the other hand, we gather our fruits—or at any rate the strawberries—as they ripen. Too great a delay in this respect, with the design of getting in one large crop at the same gathering, will involve the certain loss of a very considerable portion. Currants may safely be allowed to hang on for a time, but the birds will make very short work of an unprotected cherry-tree, while the slugs form an offensive alliance with them against the largest and ripest of the strawberries.

Budding among our fruit-trees may be done this month, as also among our roses. We have before given full directions for the proper carrying out of this interesting process. Where we have fruit preparing to ripen, we assist our trees materially by thinning out a little and giving a careful nailing.

Our cucumber-frames and melon-frames, more particularly the latter, are always objects of care and interest to us from about this time. As for the cucumbers, they are of course cropping plentifully, and we naturally wish them to continue doing so. To keep them in vigour some have recommended occasionally watering them with a little clean manure-water, though of course a good deal diluted.

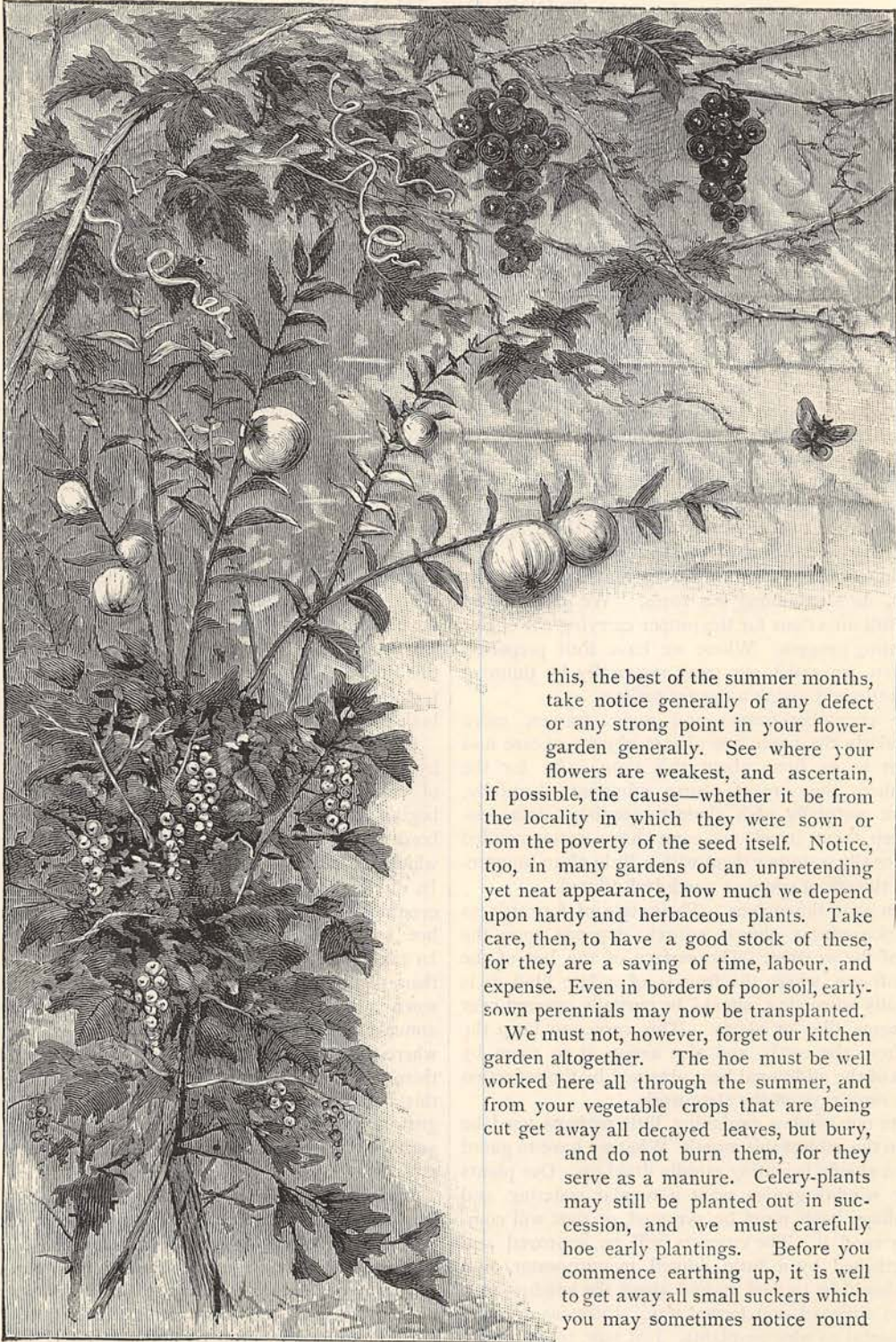
Then as to the melons. Their state of forwardness or backwardness almost entirely depends upon the state of the weather. The surface of the bed of the melon-frame, where the fruit is of a late kind or is gradually advancing, should be partially covered over with some tiles or slates. This serves to keep the fruit from the earth, and also assists it to ripen, by means of the additional heat obtained by the reflection of the sun's rays off the slate-work.

As to our window gardening, little perhaps need be said on the subject this month. What we have to guard against chiefly is getting rapidly dried up. Our plants in the window-garden want a regular watering, and the foliage itself must be syringed, or dust will completely spoil it. The creepers will be improved and strengthened by a little diluted manure-water, and they should be trained up and about the window in a not too stiffened and formal way. Fuchsias are very ornamental as window-plants. Just now, too, they are coming on in all their perfection and beauty, so that it may be as well here to say something further and more in detail as to the method of their cultivation and

management in general. And in the first place, we shall not attempt any enumeration of the endless varieties of the fuchsia. We notice, however, that for the most part, so far as their shape only is concerned, they are either of the tall and standard kind, or else of the globular and shrubby order. All this is merely a matter of training from the beginning. To rear a standard fuchsia, then, allow only the strongest shoot to grow that makes its appearance from the root in the spring. Our object is to have but one straight stem, so that all others must be pinched off. When your plant has made a fairly good start, it should be re-potted, and in doing so take care to have round the old ball of earth plenty of new and fairly rich soil, for the fuchsia would seem to thrive best in a rich soil. As your young plant advances you may still continue to pinch off the shoots from the bottom of your stem; but you must allow some to develop themselves on either side of the upper part of the stem. And when your plant has grown sufficiently high for your purpose, carefully pinch out the top, and this being done, the growth of the upper side shoots, which go now to form the head and crown of your plant, will be greatly accelerated. As time goes on you will soon have a fine healthy plant, rich in clustering flowers. Let us say at once, however, and more particularly at this time of the year, that any neglect in watering the fuchsia will soon reduce your plant to a dry stick, for both the foliage and flowers will rapidly drop off.

Our general flower-garden ought to be gay enough by this time. In a hot and forward season some of our earlier flowering plants are perhaps already beginning to wane, but for all expectant gaps in our borders we fall back upon our stock of annuals, which as they are required we readily transplant. In doing this, however, we take care to choose the evening of the day, or, if earlier, never during a hot sunshine, but in cloudy or showery weather. In taking up your annuals, see that you have with them plenty of the earth in which they were originally sown adhering to their roots. When we sow our annuals with the intention of allowing them to bloom where they are sown, it is very often necessary to thin them out after they have half grown, for very often in this and the next month you will see a large, overgrown, and straggling bed half-choking itself, and perhaps its neighbours as well, by its entangled mass.

If done at once, a few may be sown to flower later on in the season, for there is a great satisfaction at having bright summer flowers when Michaelmas even has come round. The dahlias, upon which we partly depend for our August and September display, will require a little attention this month. They must, first of all, be properly and securely tied as they grow; the buds too may perhaps be thinned; they want also plenty of water, and a sharp look-out must be kept against their greatest enemy, the earwig. In



this, the best of the summer months, take notice generally of any defect or any strong point in your flower-garden generally. See where your flowers are weakest, and ascertain, if possible, the cause—whether it be from the locality in which they were sown or from the poverty of the seed itself. Notice, too, in many gardens of an unpretending yet neat appearance, how much we depend upon hardy and herbaceous plants. Take care, then, to have a good stock of these, for they are a saving of time, labour, and expense. Even in borders of poor soil, early-sown perennials may now be transplanted.

We must not, however, forget our kitchen garden altogether. The hoe must be well worked here all through the summer, and from your vegetable crops that are being cut get away all decayed leaves, but bury, and do not burn them, for they serve as a manure. Celery-plants may still be planted out in succession, and we must carefully hoe early plantings. Before you commence earthing up, it is well to get away all small suckers which you may sometimes notice round

your celery-plants, and only earth up on a dry day, doing so, more particularly first of all, very carefully, so as to avoid allowing any of the soil to fall into the heart of your plant. Preparations too may be made for the winter sowing of onions. They like a rich soil. A discarded strawberry-ground will do admirably for them. The seed may be sown pretty thickly. The last sowing of peas may be made, but certainly not later than the end of the month; for this select, therefore, your best piece of ground, and if your

soil should chance to be very dry, water the drills just before you put your peas in. And then, too, there is the crop very soon to be got in of winter spinach and turnips, and immediate attention must be given to the vegetable marrows, which, with the French beans, are a warning that our summer does not last for ever. And yet with a little painstaking we can, in a sense, prolong our summer in so far as our garden crops are concerned; and this, after all, is the main object that we gardeners have in view.

A SUMMER CAMP-MEETING IN AMERICA.

BY CATHERINE OWEN.



ALTHOUGH so much has been written about America of late years—so much that it would seem to those who do not know the country that nothing more can remain to be said—yet to those who do know it there seems a great deal left to say.

I do not think any one has described one phase of life there, to which, so far as I know, there is no parallel in this country.

I allude to that curious blending of religion and recreation, a sea-side camp-meeting. Americans complain, with much reason, that English people describe their country only from the ludicrous side, forgetting that what strikes them as absurd is really only so in the same way as many English customs seem so to French observers. If it is true that "familiarity breeds contempt," it equally breeds respect. Therefore, it is from no desire to write on the ludicrous aspect of things only that I choose this phase of life, so open to ridicule, so mercilessly ridiculed, in fact, by such Americans themselves as do not belong to religious sects who affect camp-services. I choose it because I think that it is new, and that it offers some suggestions to English people of the class herein described.

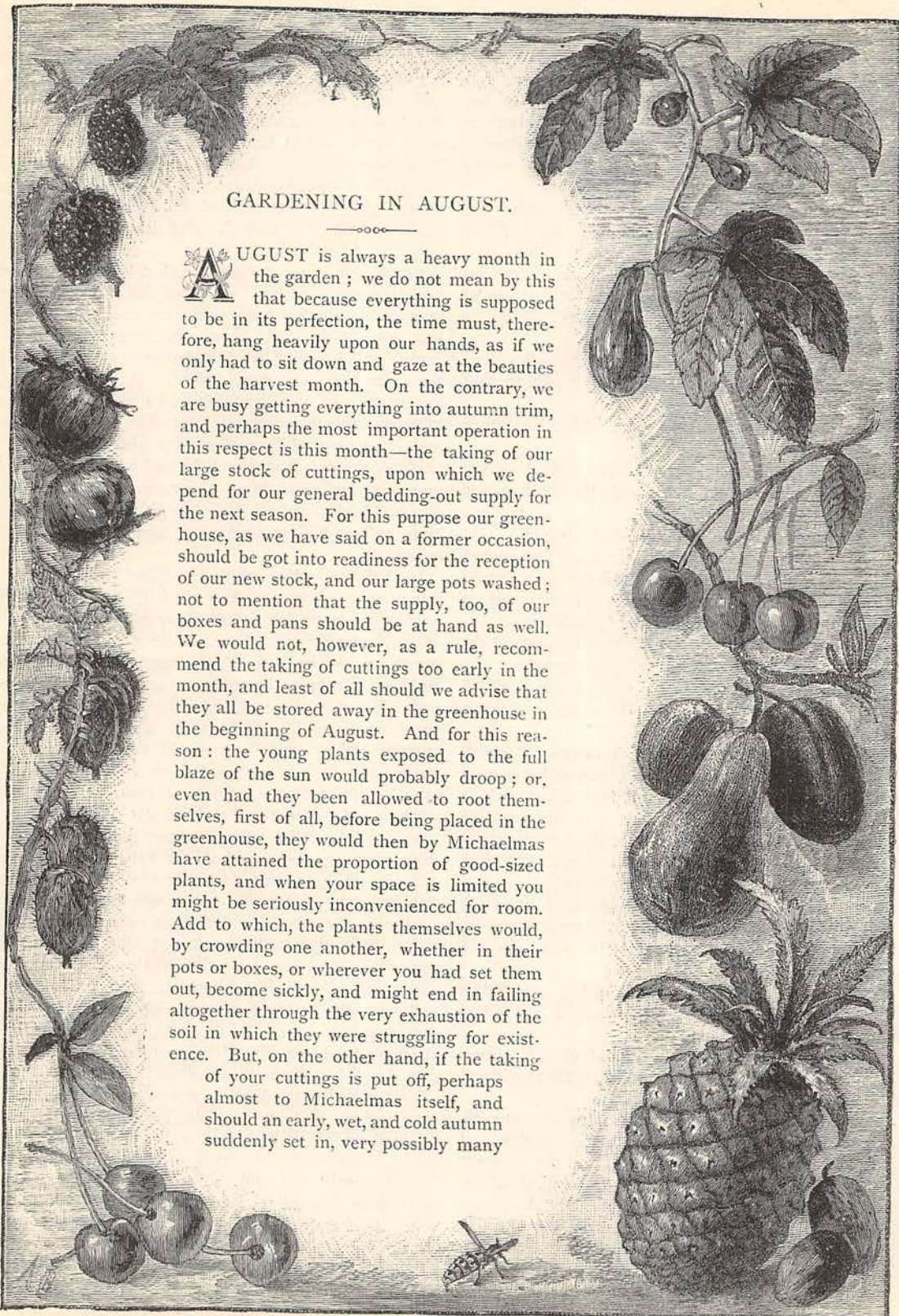
Ocean Grove—now a crowded summer resort with hotels, roads, squares, and hundreds of cottages, its stores, offices, and schools—was in 1869 a wild jungle. Asbury Park, a fashionable resort, purely secular in character, is separated from the sacred ground only by a tiny neck of land not a hundred yards wide in one spot, and a long narrow lakelet, for which the ferry fare is one halfpenny. In fact, if you will imagine the Serpentine to run north and south instead of stretching as it does in a westerly direction, and that the west bank is Ocean Grove, the east Asbury Park, and the strip of gravel path between Rotten Row and the Broad Walk the narrow neck of land before mentioned, south of which rolls the Atlantic, you will be able to form an exact idea of the proximity of this sacred city to the pomps and vanities of the world as displayed in such a popular American watering-place as Asbury Park.

I had heard much of the celebrated camp-meeting

ground of the Methodists at Ocean Grove; of the tent-life there; and, in order to realise so curious a scene, visited it last year.

The railway station is Asbury Park, and a stage runs from it to Ocean Grove. Asbury Park itself, as an instance of the wonderful growth of towns in America, is well worth description, with its large handsome station, crowded in the season with throngs of visitors in all the fashionable eccentricity of watering-place attire, and its vociferous stage touts shouting the various hotels for which they are "runners."

But Ocean Grove is the point of attraction for me, and entering a stage on which those words are conspicuously painted, I am driven through the main street of Asbury Park. Past huge hotels, that seem all verandah and flowers, and then we come to Wesley Lake, and know we are approaching the Ocean Grove. I get out of the coach at Coleman House on the Asbury Park side of the lake, for I prefer the secular ground as my abiding-place, and take a little red-cushioned boat with a white awning, and have myself rowed across to the "Sacred City," as the Methodists, without a suspicion of profanity, love to call it. Scarcely do I mount the broad wooden steps let in the green sloping bank, than I am conscious of a difference in the aspect of things—or perhaps I fancy it, impressed by the sacred names of places—now meeting the view. At the top of the steps I find a broad level road stretching before me further than I can see, with cottages at each side, and a sign tells me it is "Pilgrim's Pathway." I immediately feel as if I were travelling with John Bunyan, but am disposed to disappointment, for I find houses much like those in Asbury Park as to form, differing only from them as a Quaker differs from an ordinary wight; a certain quietude, a subdued colouring as to blinds and awnings, prevails. Then we come to a large square, beautifully laid out and cultivated, and a large and every-day-looking hotel. I express my surprise, and then learn that Ocean Grove, besides those who go there to worship, has a number of cottagers—as sea-side visitors who hire a cottage instead of boarding are termed—who, induced either by economical reasons (it being much cheaper than its neighbour



GARDENING IN AUGUST.

AUGUST is always a heavy month in the garden ; we do not mean by this that because everything is supposed to be in its perfection, the time must, therefore, hang heavily upon our hands, as if we only had to sit down and gaze at the beauties of the harvest month. On the contrary, we are busy getting everything into autumn trim, and perhaps the most important operation in this respect is this month—the taking of our large stock of cuttings, upon which we depend for our general bedding-out supply for the next season. For this purpose our greenhouse, as we have said on a former occasion, should be got into readiness for the reception of our new stock, and our large pots washed ; not to mention that the supply, too, of our boxes and pans should be at hand as well. We would not, however, as a rule, recommend the taking of cuttings too early in the month, and least of all should we advise that they all be stored away in the greenhouse in the beginning of August. And for this reason : the young plants exposed to the full blaze of the sun would probably droop ; or, even had they been allowed to root themselves, first of all, before being placed in the greenhouse, they would then by Michaelmas have attained the proportion of good-sized plants, and when your space is limited you might be seriously inconvenienced for room. Add to which, the plants themselves would, by crowding one another, whether in their pots or boxes, or wherever you had set them out, become sickly, and might end in failing altogether through the very exhaustion of the soil in which they were struggling for existence. But, on the other hand, if the taking of your cuttings is put off, perhaps almost to Michaelmas itself, and should an early, wet, and cold autumn suddenly set in, very possibly many

of your cuttings might fail to strike. As in so many other, then, of our gardening operations, we must depend, in this instance, a good deal upon the nature of the season that we are having, before we decide to carry out at once any of our routine in the garden; nor would we select for our taking of cuttings a dry and hot sultry day early in the month of August. Our only object is to keep alive a stock of plants to meet the demands of the next season. There is, perhaps, one advantage that boxes have over flower-pots. Not only are we able to get a large quantity into one case, but, when the time comes for shifting them or turning them all out, they are the more readily moved. And then, again, it is so easy to fill one box entirely with one class of plants, or with one particular shade of flower that has pleased your fancy and that you have marked in consequence. This can be labelled at once, and you would run far less fear of making mistakes when the next bedding-out time comes, than you would with three or four cuttings in some twenty or more pots. As for drainage, if your boxes happen to be exceedingly well made, you might with a gimlet bore a few holes in the bottom of your box; but a box roughly knocked together, perhaps by your own amateur carpenter hands, would do away even with the necessity of this, as the little defects in the workmanship would be an undesigned advantage.

As for our window gardening this month, there is, perhaps, not very much to be said. As yet, the most important thing in this department is to keep up a constant supply of moisture for your window stock; at any rate, in those places that are exposed to the rays of the sun for the greater part of the day. And next, have in preparation a supply of bright and hardy evergreens to put in the place of your flowers as they go out of bloom. Or you might like to try the experiment of forcing in an early show of hyacinths or crocuses. For this, if you pot in sandy loam a few bulbs, and then bury them in ashes under a north wall some six inches deep, you might, perhaps, get them to bloom by Christmas time. All these experiments are often worth a trial.

Do not let your camellias have too much moisture. And, then, with regard to the fern and Wardian cases, see carefully to the watering, and still keep filling up all blanks judiciously, and not with rapidly-growing or straggling plants. But, while the summer months last, there, of course, can be no difficulty in keeping up a perpetual floral display in the window garden.

Among our roses, those that were budded last month will want plenty of careful attention in this; but under favourable circumstances, that is to say, in weather that is at once both hot and damp, budding may be continued certainly during the first week of the month. Recently-budded roses, however, must have their stocks carefully examined, and every growth and shoot along them must be rubbed off. And, unfortunately, just now these little shoots will be pushing out at all the joints of your stock, and, of course, their tendency is to draw upon that supply of strength which is all needed for your bud. And then, again, there is a new difficulty in the way. For supposing that your bud,

which is now, let us say, a month old, has shot out wonderfully, there is then, perhaps, all the more danger of its being blown, by a sudden gust of wind, completely out of the stock. See then to the security of the stakes.

One of the chief ornaments of the flower-garden this month is, perhaps, the dahlia. Its enemy, as we well know is the earwig, and every ingenuity must be exercised to keep him off. Any bad or imperfect bloom had better be picked off, as allowing it to remain on only draws upon the plant without benefit, certainly, to other blooms.

We must not burden our small and solitary greenhouse by the end of this month with our stock of cuttings. It is always well when we are gardening, though on a small scale, to leave at least some space for a few experiments, or for a few choice flowers. Perhaps, then, we resolve to sow now a few choice annuals in pots; these, when properly established, we pot off, and we look for them to bloom in the early spring. But they must have all the light and air that they can. Or, again, if you have camellias that are tolerably early in their flowering—for it must be borne in mind that while some bloom in January others are not in flower until April—these had better be soon brought into your greenhouse, though not, certainly, if the weather continues thoroughly hot. A good syringing will benefit the camellias, but they must be kept fairly cool at present, nor should it be forgotten, when the autumn and the cold weather set in, that the camellias are very shy of fire-heat, too great a dose of which will cause them to drop their buds. Our chrysanthemums, too, we are perhaps engaged in shifting; some shoots we stop, and some few layers we peg down in small pots: all this in preparation for the November display, the farewell one of the season.

Our fruit and kitchen-garden must call us off now. The wasps and large flies are vigorously at work at our wall-fruit and elsewhere, and the birds are carry-off the last of the raspberries, so we still employ our scarecrows, or nets and bottles tied up against the trees, half filled with any saccharine and glutinous substance. But the best time for destroying slugs and snails is at night. A visit with a lantern between nine and ten o'clock will insure a great havoc among this most provoking enemy, who is thus taken unawares. The young raspberry canes, if they have attained a good growth, may very likely already want tying up to protect them from the wind.

Our kitchen-garden must certainly not be passed by in silence. A few succession crops may yet, in the early part of the month, be got in, and the hoe must be active on those beds that are already in an advancing state. But many of your crops are done with, and must not, therefore, be allowed to stand still exhausting the soil and disfiguring your garden. Clear off all such, then, and dig them in, so as to get your ground in readiness for another crop. but—it need hardly be said—never of the same sort as that which you have just removed. This, perhaps, is a good time for sowing your chief winter crop of onions. The Tripoli onion is one to be got in now

for early drawing by-and-by. But those of your onions that were sown in the spring will be by this time rapidly ripening. With the back of your rake lay the stems even; this will materially assist the bulbs to swell. Should your crop be already fit for drawing, let the onions lie all about on the ground for a short time, to ripen and harden. Never harvest them, however, when at all wet, so it is well to get them all in after a few days of warm dry weather. A sowing of parsley may be made now, for there is always a constant demand for this most necessary article: plants of this that are in an advancing stage may be beneficially watered with soot-water. The dry soot is an admirable manure for it. It is well to take up now a few of your strongest parsley plants, and pot them in

rich soil, with the object of having some to fall back upon should a hard winter be in store for us, as we must not forget that the winters of 1879 and 1880 destroyed much in our garden that we had seldom formerly been at the trouble to give any protection to whatever. A main crop, too, of winter spinach should now be sown, and as it comes up it will want careful thinning out. A frequent fault is to let this grow too thickly; the plants should be nearly nine inches apart, and gathered carefully only from the outside leaves, for we must be more cautious in our winter than in our summer proceedings. There are many other matters to which we might have referred, but if gardeners attempt more than they can manage their failures are sure to be more numerous.



HOW TO DRESS RATIONALLY.

SOCIETY is much exercised at present by the different efforts made to reform the female costume. There has hardly ever been a period when greater margin or liberty existed to dress according to every one's own sweet will. People wear anything and everything, in and out of the bounds of reason, often indeed stepping widely beyond their utmost limits, though claiming to be well within any of the four very inclusive terms—taste, art, fashion, or convenience.

That great reforms are generally ushered in by great exaggerations, abuses, and excesses, is an historical fact in more matters than dress; and though the circles in which costume incessantly repeats itself are ever widening, they still remain—circles. At times during these revolutions there come periods when health is seriously menaced by the extremes attained, and then a counter-movement arises amongst those more richly endowed with physical knowledge and common sense than the thoughtless and often ignorant votaries of Fashion.

They have much to answer for who, owing to their own eyes and minds being untrained in the real lines of beauty, or untutored in what is hygienically important, create and uphold by their senseless approbation false standards of taste, that are, in their effects, fatally pernicious. Again, it must be always questionable whether reference to past ages with their very uncomfortable, ungainly exaggerations of form, can satisfactorily—whether artistically or hygienically—amend the styles of present clothing.

How gladly, indeed, should we be released from the umbrella-cover costume, that not only ties our knees, but our feet together, or the æsthetic drapery, with its quantity of loose material flapping most confusingly, if not dangerously, round our limbs! Our blooming girls would like, with all due modesty and grace, to be able to walk without shuffling, and even to run at

lawn-tennis, or to climb mountains, without fainting from breathlessness produced by severe waist compression, whilst the feet are clogged and hampered with skirts of incompatible dimensions and decoration.

No one can blame those courageous ladies who, impressed by the necessity of uncramped and healthy action, have suggested certain examples of clothing to meet these requirements consistently with form and elegance. Rational dress should be heartily welcomed, and if attractively presented will stand a good chance of finding favour with those whose judgment in such matters is most reliable and valuable.

But a serious difficulty presents itself almost at the outset. Who amongst women will ever allow that they are not already rationally dressed?

Will the so-called æsthete consent to believe that she is very far from rational in her "terrible terracotta garments," her sickly green pudding-bag cloak and crumpled cabbage head-covering? Will our tall and aristocratic "*élégantes*" with their dapper bonnets and ravishing costumes, in which colours are blended to perfection by the cunning of a Parisian *modiste*, tolerate the idea for a moment that their appearance is irreconcilable with "health, comfort, or beauty"?

Still further, how will this accusation be met by "the more resolute sisterhood of small growth, who will do anything to come out important," in spite of the painful fact that any but the simplest and plainest attire needs a proportionate presence and altitude to do it justice, and, lacking these, merely present a mon-keyfied caricature simply ridiculous?

The first object of those advocating a reform in clothing is to aim a death-blow at tight-lacing. It is quite impossible that this can be accomplished suddenly; people must be educated to see nothing but deformity in the "hour-glass waist," and well frightened at what it entails, before they will modify, much less entirely resign (as some enthusiasts in the cause demand), so useful, and, in cases of stout persons, so necessary a part of female attire as stays.

GARDENING IN SEPTEMBER.



SUMMER is once again rapidly leaving us, and we shall therefore, among other things, be busy this month, or at all events by the end of it, in getting everything into winter quarters; and yet, in this matter, we must not be in too great haste, for to have our plants all housed unduly early in the season only tends to make them more delicate and fragile, and renders them less able to encounter the rigours of a

possibly severe winter. Except, then, for the most delicate or half-hardy plants, a large portion of your stock which you intend to have by-and-by in your greenhouse may yet be allowed to stand out in the open air; only the plants must certainly be sheltered from rough and boisterous winds and heavy rains. But you must keep a very sharp look-out for the first suspicion of frost, so that perhaps some slight protection at night might be advisable. The more delicate of

your plants can be for a time put under a cold frame, and perhaps, if you only boast of a few such treasures, they could be stowed away in an old cucumber-frame. By a little management of this kind we have known, in a favourable season, a greenhouse kept unstocked until October itself has well advanced. Now, however, that the season is decidedly changing, we shall perhaps have a little more to say this month on the necessary changes and alterations to be made in what is popularly called our window-gardening. Many, of course, then, of our flowering plants will still be in flower in our window-garden, and in that case all they require, as yet, will be a careful watering, while the decayed leaves must be removed.

Another operation in this department of our subject is the getting in of a stock of bright evergreens in pots, for our winter window and balcony display. If instead of flowers you have evergreens with coloured berries, the effect is very gay. Thus, for instance, there are the red and yellow holly-berries, and then there is the snow-berry, though unhappily this plant is not evergreen. But, in addition to this, you can have endless varieties of evergreens with variegated foliage, among which we might name the *Acuba Japonica*, the striped privet, or the gold and silver striped box. Small plants too of the juniper, fir, and pine tribes can be added, not to mention also the common laurel and the Portugal laurel. Your window or balcony arrangement of evergreens being once set up, the really important thing is to give a regular and systematic watering. The general appearance of the foliage will always give you warning as to the necessity for the watering-pot, for the foliage for lack of water will begin to turn brown; this, however, should never be allowed. In the depth of the winter, then, let us say, if the soil of your pot looks dry when you have turned it over some two inches below the surface, give a good watering, sufficient to penetrate quite through the entire mass of earth, and from this day perhaps your plant will go two or even three weeks without water, especially if the weather be moist and "muggy." In an intense frost, perhaps it is as well to get some of your balcony plants under slight shelter at night. Should, however, your leaves get frozen, water your plants overhead in the morning when the frost has passed, and do not let them immediately afterwards be exposed to the rays of the sun.

Then preparations should be made this month for the bulb display in the window-garden. October is generally the month for putting in our bulbs in the open flower-garden, but for an early or forced display we must begin early; bulbs, then, in glasses should be placed in a dark, dry, and airy situation this month, for the purpose of the development of their roots; or if in pots, these should be plunged in coal-ashes and also be kept in a fairly dry place.

A careful examination should be made this month of the rose-garden, and more particularly of those roses that were budded in July last. The budded stocks will very probably want untying, as if they are too

much confined their growth will be checked. When, however, a very decided union has taken place between the bud and the stock, the ties may, perhaps, be removed with safety; and yet, when your little shoot has made a sudden advance and got long, your danger will next be from its very length, which would almost act as a lever when the wind blows, to carry your shoot completely away. In this case, then, fasten a small stick to your stock, seeing, of course, that the stick is thoroughly secured, and to the stick tie loosely your young shoot. All growth along the stock, now that your bud is fairly started, should be cut neatly off; and get away, too, the suckers, not merely cutting them down level with the soil, but get them well up, and part of the root with them, or you will only be constantly having your work to do over again, besides endangering the wellbeing of your young shoot, which cannot fail to be proportionately weakened by any growths or suckers that are allowed to flourish in secret.

In our fruit-garden, we are watching the peaches and nectarines, and doing our best to preserve them, now that they are rapidly ripening, from the attacks of vermin. Sometimes it is a good plan to allow any thoroughly spoiled fruit to remain on the tree. All the wasps and large flies will pay undivided attention to a hole in a diseased or mutilated peach, and this often seems to draw them off from the rest. Fine fruit, when gathered, should be handled lightly, and touched as little as possible; treat the peaches and nectarines in your basket just as if they were eggs, which no one would think of squeezing in their hand.

As for the apples, do not be deceived by their roseate appearance and have them gathered nearly a month too soon; the windfalls will give you an ample supply from the end of July until the middle of October, and then you may harvest your stock. Not a day must be lost if your new strawberry bed is not yet made up; indeed, this operation should not be postponed later than the middle of August.

In the kitchen-garden there is any amount of routine work to be got through. One operation about this time is often neglected, and that is the systematic clearing off of a used-up bed; two or three rows of peas, for instance, should not be allowed to remain on occupying valuable space when they are quite done with. The celery too must, on a dry day, be earthed up; but the banks of soil by this time will be pretty high, and they must not be too high. The whole stock of potatoes is probably not got up yet. Many of us prefer, however, digging them as we want them, but when they show sign of disease they had better be got up as soon as possible, and carefully looked over. The herbs should have been gathered before this, but if you are wishing to increase your supply, save your seed now, or add to your stock by very carefully dividing the roots. Our gathered herbs are for the most part hung up, but it is often best to put them away, if you can, in tin canisters, and by this means you preserve better the full flavour and aroma of the herb. The onions should by this

time be got up, and when dry stored away in a dry place. There may be yet time for sowing a bed of onions for your winter drawing supply; and, for this purpose, have your land dug deep, and let it be richly manured, and then sow thickly. In the garden generally we may expect to be well occupied in keeping

things in order, for the first fall of decayed leaves is beginning gradually to make us busy on the lawn and among the flower beds; and, after all, it is this general order and neatness that helps to make up a little for the sort of sadness which the fall of the leaf brings with it.

CHECKMATED.



GOOD morning, Jasper; how are you?"

"Mornin' to you, sir; why, pretty hearty 'cept the pegs. The rumatiz do twist 'em about a bit, certain-ly," said the speaker, with a twinge of agony.

He was a merry old fellow, and I was a merry young one; he was my servant and my uncle's, and I also was my uncle's servant in a different capacity. People who knew me said I was a fortunate fellow, and distantly hinted something about a silver spoon. Jasper was a superannuated coastguardsman, his salary was one pound per week and a few extras; his only private perquisites being, so far as I am aware, the most extraordinary rheumatic tortures man ever had.

"Sun's up, Mr. Harry, time the moon went to roost." The allusion to the heavenly bodies was a poetic conceit of his, and always afforded him considerable amusement. The ground of this poetic conceit was that he was in charge of the premises during the night, and was released when I appeared on the scene in the morning.

My uncle was a diamond merchant of considerable wealth. His business place was in Hatton Garden, and his private residence at Hampstead. Keen, strict, almost stern in business hours, it was at home, after dinner had vanished, that the lines on my uncle's face relaxed and the genial, generous man stood revealed.

I was the only child of his youngest sister, who died a few months after my birth. As I was alone in the world—my father having been lost at sea almost on the day my mother died—my uncle determined to make a man of me. I had grown into a well-educated young man, and had been, at the age of eighteen, placed in a responsible position in my uncle's business. On the morning when Jasper indulged in the pleasantries I have just mentioned, seven years had passed since I entered the office. The entire control of the business was in my hands, and it was well known that my uncle regarded me as his heir-apparent. This morning, there being nothing of unusual importance to be attended to, my uncle had not accompanied me when I set out from Hampstead, saying he would come down after luncheon.

It being Monday—on which day we usually left business an hour or two earlier—and having completed a long inspection of a heavy consignment of diamonds, I was just turning the key in the last safe,

when my uncle's barouche drove up to the door, and he ran in with his well-known quick, firm step. But when he stood before me, I noticed that he was paler than usual, and appeared to have been recently agitated.

"You are unwell, uncle; what can I do to ease you?" I asked.

"Oh, it's nothing, my boy; I shall be well directly. If there is nothing you wish to stay here to attend to, we will return at once, and I'll explain the matter to you," he said, endeavouring, with poor success, to summon up his usual smile.

In a few minutes I was seated next him, and he had handed me the reins. I forbore questioning him, and for a mile or so he sat silent. Then, as if rousing himself from a deep reverie, he suddenly exclaimed, with a pathos that brought tears into his eyes—

"You remember Jack Langton?"

I certainly did remember Jack Langton as a young man of very unenviable reputation, who, after a long course of preying upon his widowed mother—who was a distant relative of my uncle—had, when he had nearly exhausted her means, insolently demanded assistance from my uncle. For the sake of his mother, this system of extortion had been submitted to with tolerably good grace, until Mr. Langton was "wanted" to explain a little matter to which the law applied the stern epithet forgery, and could nowhere be found.

My uncle proceeded: "I had this morning, as I drove down to 'the Garden'"—we always spoke of our dingy place in this flowery style—"the most painful adventure that has befallen me. A man rushed from behind a hedge, and shouted to me to halt. As it was broad daylight, I thought he must have some message for me, and so, entertaining no suspicion, I pulled up to hear what he wished to say. You may judge of my surprise when a closer scrutiny of the man revealed unmistakably the person of Jack. He was worn and haggard, and had disguised himself as far as possible. The complaint from which he suffered was, of course, want of money; and I gave him a note for ten pounds, telling him that if he again presented himself before me, I would certainly denounce him to the police. He pocketed the note without the least acknowledgment, and turning away, as I thought, to proceed on his journey, he sprang savagely upon me, trying to wrest my pocket-book from my hand. I was too quick for him, and, thanks to my elevated position, threw him off and drove on."

GARDENING IN OCTOBER.



OURING the month of October, when the sap is down, and all our trees and shrubs are rapidly settling down into a state of rest, is the safest time for making any great and radical changes in our garden. Hence, for laying out a new garden, no better month than October can be selected. For this purpose, it is advisable, first of all, to mark out clearly the edges of

your future gravel walks, as well as the shape and boundary lines of your flower-beds. This should be followed by thorough and heavy trenching, getting your spade as deep down as the soil will allow you, so as to have all prepared for the reception of your shrubs, &c. Be careful, however, to choose fair weather for this trenching, so that, as very often in the autumn season we have an abundance of rain, it is well worth while, when you meditate changes in your garden, to neglect other work in fine weather for the sake of well trenching your beds. You will find the benefit of this by noticing the contrast between land trenched in wet weather and in fair. Trenching done under a rainy sky results in leaving you with large lumps of hardened earth that very often have to be worked over again; whereas that done in bright and open weather will give you soil more broken up and easily pulverised, which is what you want.

Now, in getting up shrubs and young trees for the purpose of transplanting them in your new beds, use every precaution to preserve all the fine fibrous matter of the roots; the more violently you tear away your young plant or shrub from the earth, thinking it of no consequence, the greater risk will you run of losing your shrub altogether.

There is another very common mistake, too, which is often made in this operation of transplanting—an error which we are not aware that we have noticed before—and it is this: the hole which is dug for the reception of your new shrub is so often made with its deepest part in the centre. The loosened and pulverised earth then should, on the contrary, form a sort of cone in the centre of your hole, and the hole should be so dug as to allow of the long taper and fibrous roots being spread out in all directions. Your shrub, then, once put in, and the mould and soil being thrown over, do not *begin* by violently stamping and ramming the earth round your tree. This is another mistake very often made, for this impetuosity at the outset of your filling in will probably result in your breaking off completely some of the long roots.

Let everything in the way, then, of ramming down or treading in the earth be quite gentle at first, for you must recollect that the soil which you are throwing in is quite loose and fine, and that therefore a heavy blow

or thud struck on its surface goes a long way towards easily damaging your roots which are now underneath it. Your object is to get the soil which is being thrown in to work thoroughly and uniformly among the roots. Have, then, some long stick at hand with which to push and poke any obstinate earth round your long roots. The head, too, of your shrub should be held firmly in one hand, and the whole shrub moved and rocked up and down every way. This, you will find, greatly facilitates the working of the earth among the roots.

We need do no more here than advert to the necessity of a plentiful watering, and the final ramming down, when all the soil is in, may of course be given with a more powerful hand than was used at the commencement of the operation.

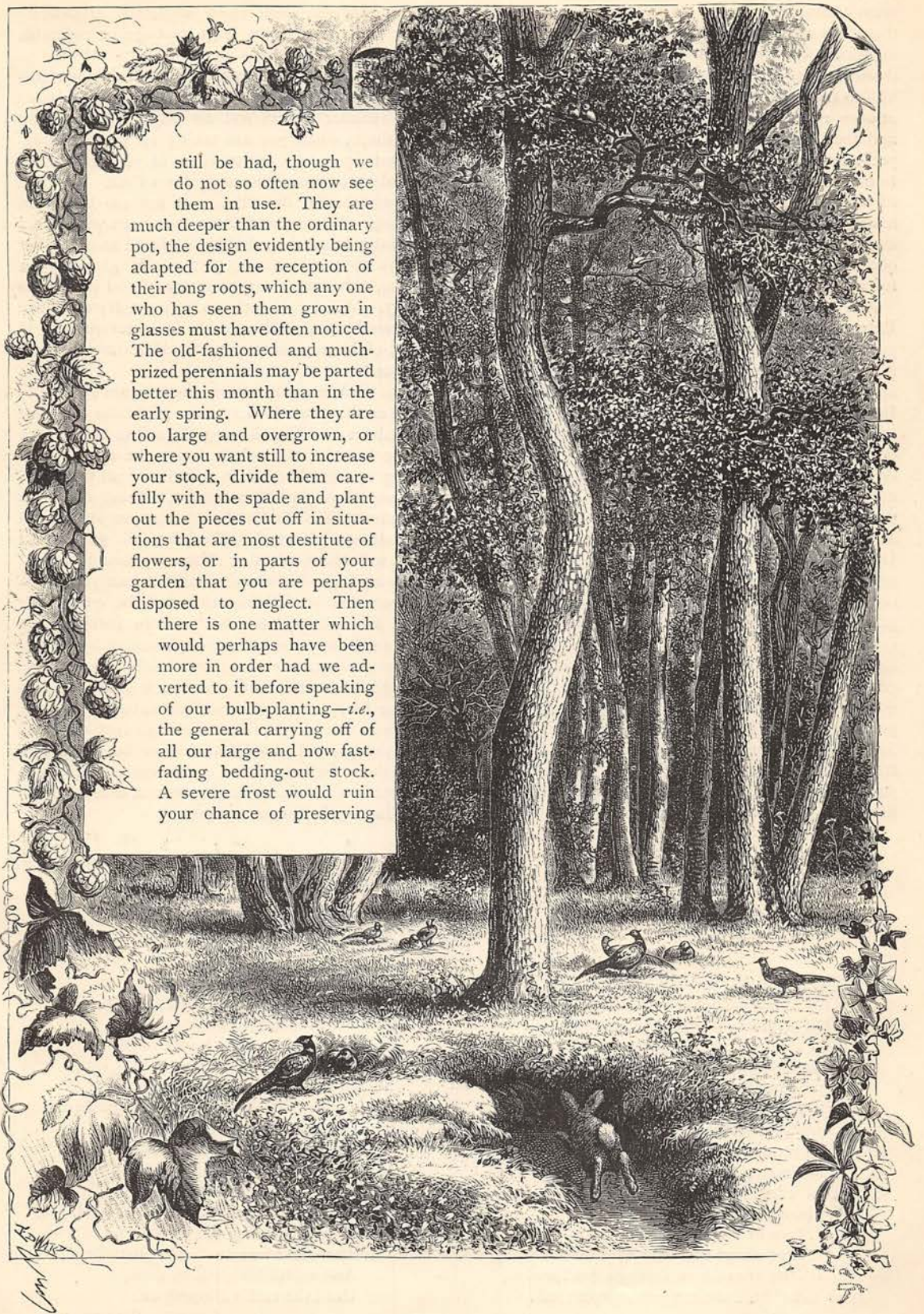
Of the evergreens, we may notice that laurels and firs, and especially the latter, are rapid growers; but not so cedars and holly. And between your evergreens and your gravel continue to have some two or three feet of soil free for flowers. Some are opposed to this, but it will generally be found that the notion of planting a number of evergreens, with the idea of afterwards deserting them entirely, and leaving no room whatever for flowers, is merely an excuse for idleness.

We should recommend, then, beginning by working in the largest and tallest shrubs for your background row; this you might follow up with a dwarf evergreen row, and lastly, have room for your flowers and box edging. About the latter, a word or two may perhaps here be said with advantage. Box should always be put in deep; when you are putting it in, it should all first have been pulled to pieces—that is to say, it should be so thinned as to have each piece separate and with a good root to it. Lay them all down in a row in front of you, get them all of uniform length, and have their tips trimmed square and neatly.

Nothing is better for the borders of your garden walk than box. In a large and old-fashioned garden you may very often notice that the box has been allowed to attain a prodigious size. This is really a mistake, for box thoroughly overgrown not only in that case entails to a certain extent the loss of, at all events, a part of your border by reason of its overshadowing it, but it affords a harbour for snails and other vermin that think themselves secure in such a thick retreat.

And in our flower garden this month is a busy one for getting in the main stock of our bulbs. Due regard must be had in this matter to the colour and height of the flower. This is an operation that may be taken in hand any time this month, or even during a part of the next, only take care that it is not done during a frost. The smaller ones, such as crocuses, snowdrops, &c., may be placed in patches, but the large hyacinths singly. Pots, by the way, used to be made expressly for hyacinths, and probably they may

still be had, though we do not so often now see them in use. They are much deeper than the ordinary pot, the design evidently being adapted for the reception of their long roots, which any one who has seen them grown in glasses must have often noticed. The old-fashioned and much-prized perennials may be parted better this month than in the early spring. Where they are too large and overgrown, or where you want still to increase your stock, divide them carefully with the spade and plant out the pieces cut off in situations that are most destitute of flowers, or in parts of your garden that you are perhaps disposed to neglect. Then there is one matter which would perhaps have been more in order had we adverted to it before speaking of our bulb-planting—*i.e.*, the general carrying off of all our large and now fast-fading bedding-out stock. A severe frost would ruin your chance of preserving



them afterwards ; but do not, on the other hand, nurse them up too much, and especially in the early winter months. As soon as you have got them up, cut them down to some six inches in height, and thin the roots also to some three inches in length. This, you will see at once, reduces their size to a more manageable one, and they can then be stowed away closely together, put them in a semi-slanting position in large pots or boxes ; water, and if you cannot find greenhouse-room for them, put them in some good dry cellar or out-house, bearing in mind that perpetual damp is almost as much their enemy, and perhaps a more implacable one than a frost ; "damping off," indeed, is a gardener's too well-known expression significant of failure.

And this is our great harvest month in the orchard. Experience has long ago taught us that our apple-gathering must be patiently and carefully gone through if we would be successful in the preservation of our stock, on which the domestic demand is so unceasing. Indifference when apple-gathering in October means to a certainty an empty fruit-room, when at Christmas time the children are looking for a full one. Much, certainly, has been said and written about the best method of preserving fruit from decay ; and perhaps the good old-fashioned method of putting straw over as well as under the fruit is still not to be despised. Do not be frightened at giving plenty of air to your apple-room. One thing most persons of any observation must surely have noticed. Wander round your garden much later on in the year, or perhaps in the coming January, and you find yourself suddenly stooping to pick up an apple that had hitherto lain concealed, and you perhaps marvel that it is in such a good state of preservation. The writer has often been puzzled at this, and fancies that perhaps some new *modus vivendi* for gathered apples may be discovered from noticing particularly the spot or the circumstances in which the apple has managed to secrete itself. It will generally be found to be under some

slight protection, such as a neglected strawberry bed, or underneath some large cabbage or vegetable bed.

A few words about our window and kitchen gardens must not be left unsaid. For the window, most of the summer flowers will no longer avail us ; and yet, perhaps, when you are taking up your bedding-out plants, you may notice some of your geraniums disposed to continue blooming for awhile. Try and preserve these for the window, if not too large and straggling. Myrtles, and those evergreen plants that like a little protection, should be placed as near your windows as you can get them ; and give regular watering, although at longer intervals and in smaller quantity. When your fuchsias have got dry and have cast their leaves, set them aside in winter quarters in any out-of-the-way room or corner, but do not let them get frosted.

In the kitchen garden there is once again the careful routine earthing up of celery. So particular are some people about avoiding allowing the soil to find its way into the heart of the celery during the operation of earthing up, that they tie it up first of all with matting, just as you would a lettuce, untying the plant again afterwards. And make the best use just now of your cabbage plants, by filling up all your spare ground with them, planting them very close in a row, and having a good foot and a half between your rows. In a very few weeks' time they will be quite large enough for ordinary use ; but so draw them, first of all, as to get away two out of every three, or by leaving a space sufficient for those left behind to develop, when, should another mild winter such as that we had last year be in store for us, you will have a good large cabbage in the early spring. Potatoes that may still be in the ground should no longer be allowed to remain there, for indeed this is the very last month in which we can allow anything to remain outside which would damage by longer exposure.

LIKE THE IVY.

TRUE love is like the ivy bold,
That clings each day with firmer hold ;
That groweth on through good and ill,
And 'mid the tempest clingeth still.
What though the wall on which it climbs
Have lost the grace of former times,
Will then the ivy loose its hold,
Forget the sunny days of old ?
Nay, rather it will closer cling
With loving clasp, remembering
That it had hardly lived at all
Without the kindly shelt'ring wall.
True love is like the ivy bold,
That clings each day with firmer hold ;
That groweth on through good and ill,
And 'mid the tempest clingeth still.

True love is like the ivy green,
That ne'er forgetteth what hath been,
And so, till life itself be gone,
Until the end it clingeth on.
What though the tree where it may cling
Shall hardly know another spring ?
What though its boughs be dead and bare ?
The twining ivy climbeth there,
And clasps it with a firmer hold,
With stronger love than that of old,
And lends it grace it never had
When time was young and life was glad.
True love is like the ivy green,
That ne'er forgetteth what hath been,
And so, till life itself be gone,
Until the end it clingeth on.

GEORGE WEATHERLY.

murmur of many voices, the court seems darkened, and once more silence as of death. Now a calm, grave voice is addressing me, not in harrowing terms for past sins, but in earnest exhortation for my eternal welfare.

The voice continues, "You have been found guilty, and the law says that you must die." Here there is a pause, the speaker apparently overcome with emotion, while sobs of women are audible.

"You will be taken from this court . . ." A wild despairing cry, and I fall back insensible.

* * * * *

"Where am I? Who are you? What do you want with me? Ah! Yes, yes, I remember! Well, I am quite ready, only help me off this bed, and then——"

"Hush, my darling. 'Tis I, your own loving wife! You are quite safe. There, rest your head on my shoulder—so. You have been very ill, dear, but you will soon be well."

"Why are you here?" I ask as I gaze up into her eyes. "Why do you come to me when you deny——"

"You must not talk, darling. You have been ill for a long time, and have fancied such dreadful things, but it is all over now, thank God!"

My senses gradually return, and as I realise that I am clasped safely in the arms of my loving wife, I burst into a passionate fit of tears, which, gradually ceasing, leaves me in a deep slumber.

* * * * *

Six weeks have passed. I stand by the side of my wife on the deck of a steamer gliding smoothly along the shores of the Mediterranean, and she is recounting the things I uttered in my delirium. It will have been understood now that my fevered body gave way on my return from Westminster Hall after having lost my papers, and that the subsequent events recorded were merely the imaginations of a disordered brain.

My employers had been more than kind, and I suffered no pecuniary loss from my illness. In addition to this, the voyage I am now enjoying has been undertaken at their request, and also at their expense.

My wife and I remain side by side far into the evening, we watch the setting sun dip down silently into the sea, but we still gaze at the glorious colours which seem to sweep the sky from the west to the zenith, and while my heart is too full to speak, I hear a sweet, low voice murmur, "Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

WALTER WIMPOLE.

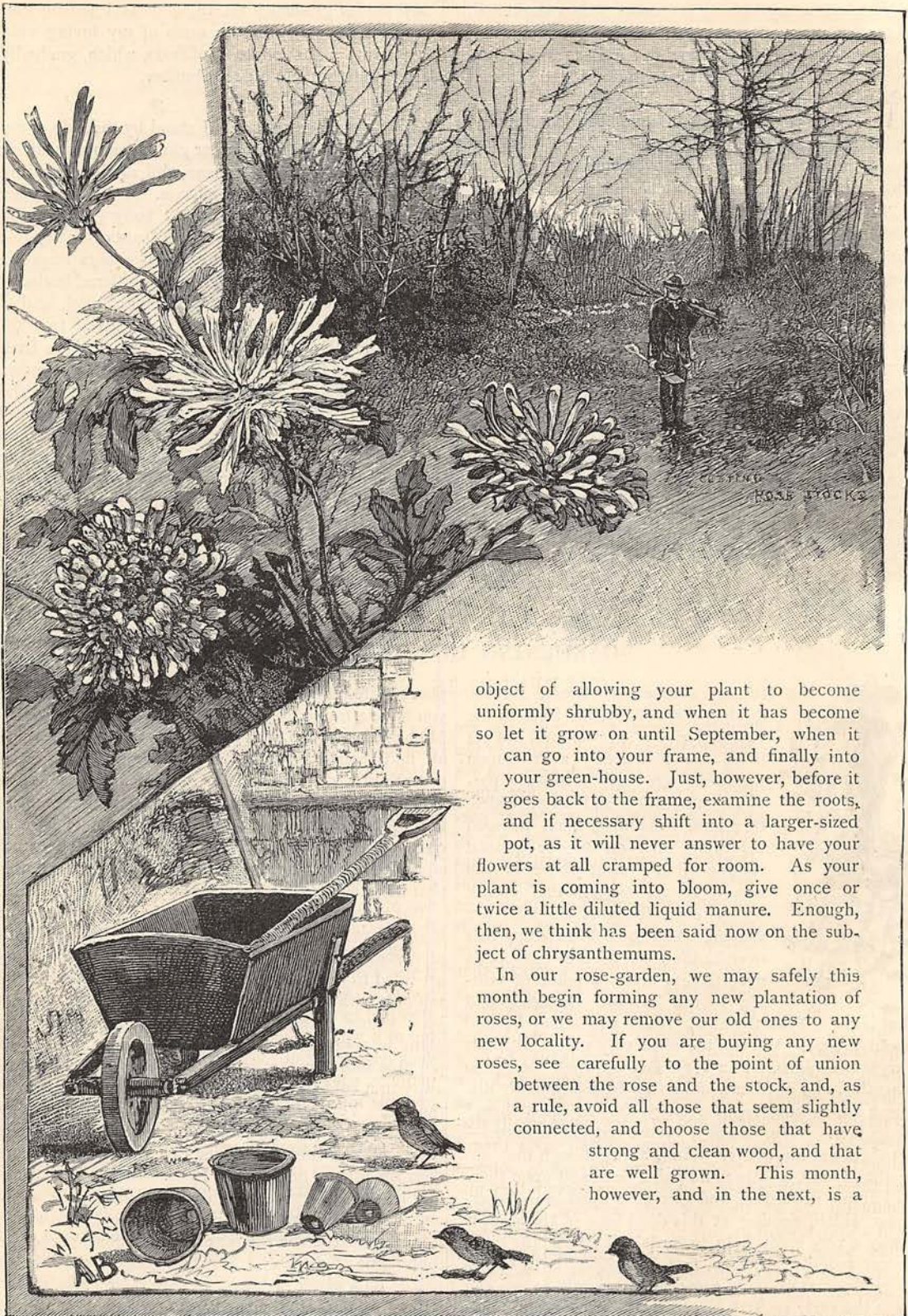
GARDENING IN NOVEMBER.



N the ordinary course of nature, we are bidding farewell by this time to the vast majority of our flowers, but yet there are necessarily a few upon which we are still bestowing particular attention, and upon which, therefore, something must be said before we turn off to our general routine-work. And there is one flower, at all events, this month which even those of us who are gasping under the ochre canopy that overshadows us in the metropolis nevertheless make a point of visiting in the Temple Gardens, and that is the chrysanthemum. A few words may be said about it here. We are too often very rough with our chrysanthemums. The very fact of their being so tractable, and obedient, and so hardy, occasionally disposes us, in vulgar phraseology, to "sit upon them" altogether. "Ah," we say, "those chrysanthemums—set them out anywhere." And, hardy though they undoubtedly are, a little more pains bestowed upon them will amply reward us, and give us a handsome flower-show which, coming at this dead time of the year, is really a very great help towards enlivening the early winter months. If, then, first, our object is to obtain *large* flowers, we must grow as luxuriantly as we can from the early suckers or cuttings. These young cuttings should be taken in July, grown in small pots, and placed in the open garden. When you find your

pot is quite full of roots, shift into a larger one, and if you have a frame they had better be got in there by Michaelmas, while finally your chrysanthemums must all find their way into the green-house, the genial warmth of which will add to the size and expanse of your flowers. They like a little liquid manure during the process of their growth. The merits of a prize chrysanthemum of this class depend upon the actual size of the flower, but it is still a feature of this flower that its colours can never be said to be actually brilliant.

But there are other varieties of the chrysanthemum: if you want to have a shrubby and bushy plant, with plenty of flowers upon it, have your struck cutting attended to in the spring of the year, and pinch off the top of it within some two or three eyes of the base of your young plant. Should the pot in which your plant is, soon become full of roots, shift as soon as possible into one that is two sizes larger, set it then away in a cold frame, and at all events protect it from the sun. Very soon it will begin to send out other shoots, and, as in the cultivation indeed of all bushy plants, if you find one shoot disposed to grow more than the others, take off its head. In the early summer let your chrysanthemum pots be stood on a plank out in the open air, but they want still to be protected from the heat of the sun, at all events during most of the middle of the day. We recommend their being placed on a plank or board, in case their roots should strike through into the earth. As your plant continues growing, give systematic and careful watering, and pinch or take off all too luxuriant shoots, with the



object of allowing your plant to become uniformly shrubby, and when it has become so let it grow on until September, when it can go into your frame, and finally into your green-house. Just, however, before it goes back to the frame, examine the roots, and if necessary shift into a larger-sized pot, as it will never answer to have your flowers at all cramped for room. As your plant is coming into bloom, give once or twice a little diluted liquid manure. Enough, then, we think has been said now on the subject of chrysanthemums.

In our rose-garden, we may safely this month begin forming any new plantation of roses, or we may remove our old ones to any new locality. If you are buying any new roses, see carefully to the point of union between the rose and the stock, and, as a rule, avoid all those that seem slightly connected, and choose those that have strong and clean wood, and that are well grown. This month, however, and in the next, is a

grand time, and in fact the best time, for going yourself to the woods and cutting or getting up your own stocks. This is, though, certainly very rough and fatiguing work, and would hardly be undertaken by most of us; yet if you notice along country high-roads, you will see at times some tired-looking labouring man returning in the evening with his long row of fresh-acquired stocks over his shoulder. These he plants out, and in the following July he will bud them himself. You will see that he puts them all in rows, and some three or four feet apart from each other; and he will either put them so as they can be supported by a rail, or else—which is more often the case, as a rail is seldom handy for use—he will, midway between each stock, drive a good stake well in, and then with a strong cord all along, he will secure the stocks firmly to the stakes, so as to prevent them from being injured by the violent gales, which might otherwise destroy them. There is much work of a heavy character which is not only *suitable* to this month, or to December in the absence of frost, but which positively *cannot* be done at any other time of the year, as much earlier than November the sap is not down, while in the frosts of January we are afraid to move our trees. Hence, we still, and as early in the month as may be, continue putting in our bulbs, or finish any alterations that we began to make last month in the shrubbery; while any changes in turf-laying, or variety in the shape of our beds, must also be finished this month.

The changes among the good old perennials should also be finished off now, and all the beds and borders got into winter order. By the middle of the month all the leaves will be down, and you will therefore, after a good heavy gale, be able to look for final order in your garden. Under no circumstances, however, pull off leaves from, for example, any of your fruit-trees;

although it may be safe to carry your broom quite lightly over them for the purpose of facilitating the removal of the foliage; but where you find any decided resistance, and that the leaves still remain on, desist at once from your experiment.

Speaking of fruit-trees, see that all the young and strong-bearing wood is well nailed in its place, and remove all those shoots that you see intend to grow directly perpendicularly from the wall. Indeed, it may well answer your purpose this month to unnaill any branches of your wall-fruit that seem disposed to get in one another's way; while old wood that is destitute of any lateral branches may be cut out altogether, when you see at the same time that you have some young branches to supply its place.

The raspberry-canes must be thinned so as to leave some few of the strongest, while the rest should be cut down, the old shoots removed, and the ground dug and manured. And in the kitchen garden have some heavy trenching done, so as to be ready to let your soil gain all the benefit of the frost. A row of peas may be got in, but be careful to choose a favourable aspect. Of course you cannot guarantee their success, but in a mild winter—such as last was—or with some pains taken to protect them from frost, you may succeed in obtaining an early crop in the following season. As for the winter spinach, keep it clear of weeds, and only gather outside leaves. And very soon the real winter will set in, and, perhaps, drive you for a day's work under your glass. Indeed, though we are fond of speaking of the "old" garden, there is always something new to be done in it—some new experiment to make, some new flower to rear and watch—so that "the daily task, the common round" of our craft is not only an unfailling source of pleasure, but, with management, can be made one of domestic economy as well.

COLLEGE CLUBS.



THE Long Vacation is over at length. The swallows have sped their graceful flight to the sunny South, the lawyers have returned to their dusty chambers, and the light-hearted undergraduate tribe is once more thronging its accustomed haunts by the swift-flowing stream of Isis, or the muddy banks of Cam. Very pleasant are the classic

shades of our ancient University towns in the long days of the summer holiday. As you wander along the banks of the river, you find that every sheltered spot has its occupant. Reclining on the bank in luxurious ease, the heated "undergrad" relieves the sultriness of the afternoon in the pleasant company of a trusty pipe and the latest novel; and, later in the day, you know that he will probably explain to a chosen few what desperate work the day has brought, while the company makes the most of one of those cheering late teas that are an institution among the few residents during the Long Vacation.

But, somehow, "the Long" is not like term time. It has its advantages certainly; the evenings are longer, the number of men in residence is fewer, and social intercourse cosier than in term. But one misses the familiar sight of troops of men in cap and gown, and altogether there is more or less an air of dulness in the place. But the Long is over in October,

to mount the hill to the uplands of freedom and success? In such a case it is a Public Life which fits a woman to be most truly man's help-meet.

Finally, with respect to uneducated labour, at home and in public, there may be but little difference of opinion as to the comparative equality of wages. But when we proceed to consider educated labour, surely the difference is most decidedly against home life. A female clerk in the postal or telegraph service—gifted with the most ordinary abilities—may earn from £40 to £80 per annum; a governess of the same calibre would be fortunate could she obtain from £15 to £20 a year, often without board and lodging. An efficient saleswoman will earn far more than a highly-educated governess, board and lodging being provided in both cases. And so on through almost the whole round of labour. For, to quote my opponent once more, "if extreme cases be taken on either side," how can the sempstress or tailoress who works at home from early morn to midnight for a miserable pittance of 4d. or 6d. a day, be compared to the factory-girl, who at book-binding, or weaving, or any other of our manufacturing industries, will earn from 6s. to 15s. a week, and this, too, with a daily average of only about nine hours' work?

And now, Sir, to come to my crowning argument—

expediency and necessity. The real fact is, there is no room for an army of home-workers. Granted all the avenues instanced by the defender of Home Life, they would not provide with work one-tenth of the girls seeking employment. What would be called respectable home employments are at a discount: the market is overstocked with governesses, fancy-work producers, art-workers. And even in the case of domestic servants there is not the dearth that existed some four or five years ago, in the days of exceptional commercial prosperity. Girls themselves like the comparative freedom of public life, and unless it can be shown most unmistakably that such life is harmful, the laws of supply and demand should not be lightly interfered with by introducing as an obstacle the peculiar sacredness of home life. Fortunate is it for the girls of our land that every day new opportunities are afforded for woman's work in public. The female population of our country yearly exceeds the male in ratio, and continually more and more of them must remain unmarried. If it were not for the occupations open to them in the world, what would become of them? Can the opener of the debate supply any satisfactory answer to this question? I am convinced he cannot!

END OF OPPONENT'S ARGUMENT.

TO OUR READERS.—*The Editor will be happy to receive the opinions of any Readers on the above Question, on either side, with a view to the publication of the most suitable and concise communications in the February Part, when the opener will exercise his right of reply upon the whole. Letters should be addressed "The Editor of 'Cassell's Family Magazine,' La Belle Sauvage Yard, London, E.C.," and in the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be written, "Family Parliament." All communications on the present Question must reach the Editor not later than December 10.*

An honorarium of £1 1s. will be accorded (subject to the discretion of the Editor) to the best letter on either side of the Question; no letter to exceed 50 lines (500 words).

Next month a discussion will be opened on Question II., ARE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFICIAL?

GARDENING IN DECEMBER.

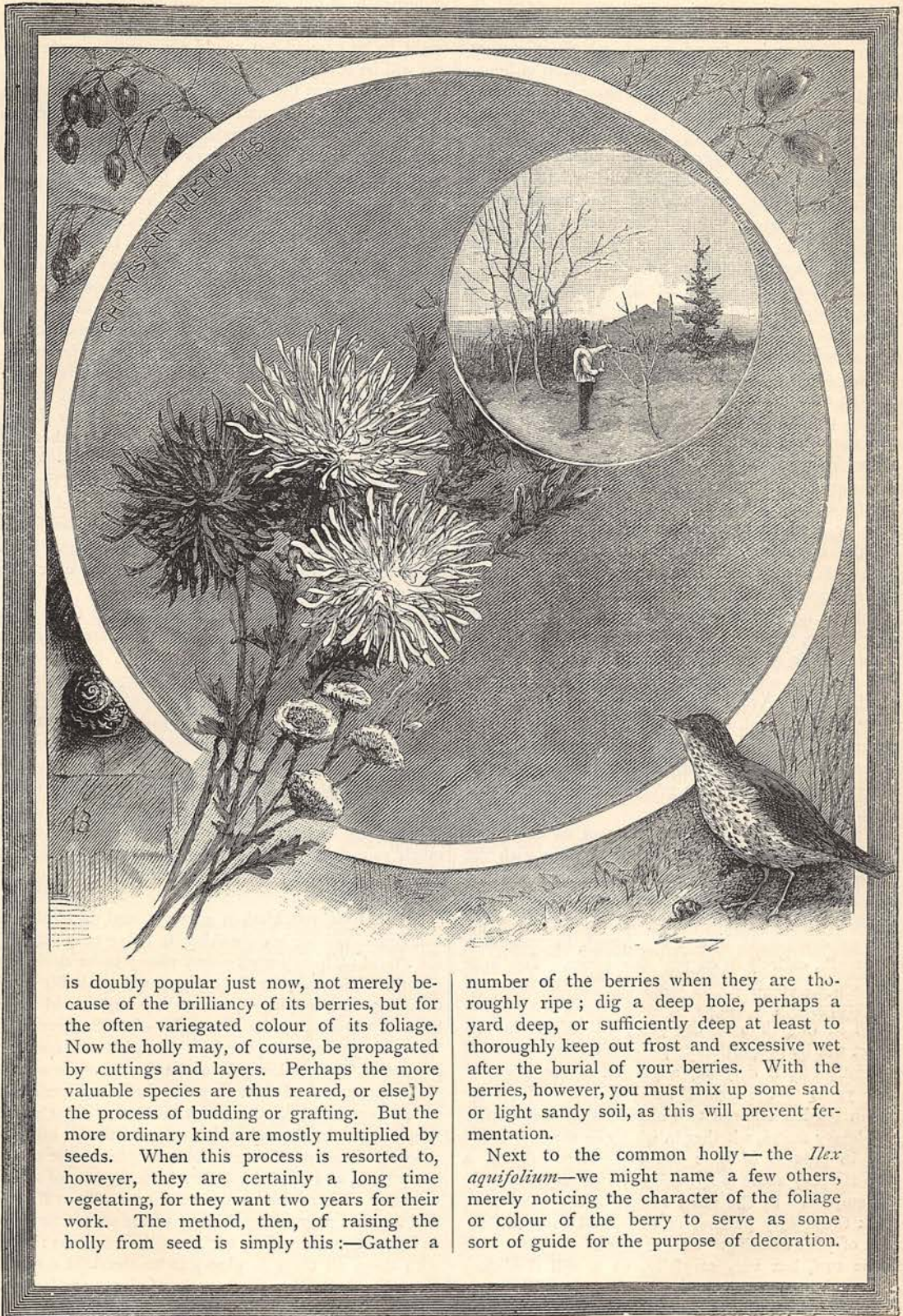


EACH month, say many of our half-hearted gardeners, since the bedding-out plants were taken up the garden has looked more and more deplorable and desolate. We must be very ready to admit that for out-door occupation or amusement there is many a more festive month than December to be found,

in the garden during this much-abused yet much-anticipated month of December. Why should not the garden look as neat and as orderly in the winter as in the summer? At any rate, then, we can make a good beginning here, and as December is the month in which, especially after gales and rough weather, neglect and idleness make untidiness all the more apparent, we should occupy ourselves with the broom and the rake, and get off all the scattered leaves and broken limbs of trees and shrubs that disfigure the garden so much if allowed to remain eddying round and round in their moaning melancholy circus caused by a diminutive whirlwind. Now these leaves need not be burnt; collect them from every part of the garden into one place, where they will rot down into a rich mould or ferment in some hot-bed or pit.

but it is possible to make the best of things, and certainly more than possible to find plenty to do

Our old friend the ilex, the "holly" tree—its name sometimes conjectured to be a corruption of "holy"—



is doubly popular just now, not merely because of the brilliancy of its berries, but for the often variegated colour of its foliage. Now the holly may, of course, be propagated by cuttings and layers. Perhaps the more valuable species are thus reared, or else] by the process of budding or grafting. But the more ordinary kind are mostly multiplied by seeds. When this process is resorted to, however, they are certainly a long time vegetating, for they want two years for their work. The method, then, of raising the holly from seed is simply this:—Gather a

number of the berries when they are thoroughly ripe; dig a deep hole, perhaps a yard deep, or sufficiently deep at least to thoroughly keep out frost and excessive wet after the burial of your berries. With the berries, however, you must mix up some sand or light sandy soil, as this will prevent fermentation.

Next to the common holly—the *Ilex aquifolium*—we might name a few others, merely noticing the character of the foliage or colour of the berry to serve as some sort of guide for the purpose of decoration.

There is the *Aureo-pictum*, or gold-spotted-leaved, in contradistinction to the *Albo-pictum*, or white-spotted; the *Laurifolium*, or laurel-leaved, which is rather small, and possesses the additional attraction of being without prickles. Then again, if colour in the berry be wanted in variety, there is in addition to the ordinary red-berried holly the *Fructu-albo*, the *Fructu-luteo*, and the *Fructu-nigro*, or the white, yellow, and black-berried. The saw-edged variety, too, is a charming holly—the *Serratifolium*—and much sought after at this season. But, of course, it is simply impossible to do more than name a selection of the holly. Then again, there are a few tender greenhouse varieties which perhaps it is hardly to our purpose to specify, though a word this month upon another and a more “tender” subject—the mistletoe—might possibly be said with advantage. There are some who go so far as to maintain it is a myth to say that the mistletoe ever grew upon the oak at all. The writer of these pages, however, was shown only the other day a thorn-tree in the immediate neighbourhood of London from which those implacable foes of anything one wishes to preserve—the boys—had ruthlessly torn some flourishing mistletoe. Mistletoe can be reared either by seed or by grafting. It is raised readily from the apple-tree, from seed, in the early spring months—February and March being perhaps the best for the process. With a sharp knife make a tongue-shaped cut immediately under a good-sized branch of an apple-tree, the overhanging bough or branch (upon the under side of which your incision, recollect, is to be made) thus affording shelter alike from the rain and the sun. Avoid breaking off, however, your tongue of bark, and underneath it put two or three good mistletoe-seeds, which, under favourable circumstances, and if managed with careful discretion, ought to succeed in due course in producing the “mistletoe bough.”

To return, however, for one moment to our holly-hedge, some have recommended a mixture with the holly of the hawthorn. It certainly has an admirable effect, more especially in the early spring of the year, and an excellent fence is the result. But we must not allow our evergreens, interesting though the subject is this month, entirely to engross our space. Too little attention, we think, is very often paid to the drainage of a garden, and in the wet seasons which are wont to prevail at this time of the year, all defects in this respect will be proportionately conspicuous. You will frequently see, it may be, a portion of the lawn, or a few yards of the gravel walk, or one end of the kitchen garden allowed to remain under water after every heavy storm, whether in winter or summer; and when in process of time the water *does* subside, a green slippery slime is left behind, and yet no remedy is attempted. In the dead month of the year, then, attack these ugly patches at once, and ascertain the cause of your flooding. In the case of the lawn take up the turf, but very carefully, as it will doubtless be in a rotten state, and you may find it almost necessary to returf the flooded part. A foundation

underneath of old brickbats and broken earthenware is often a good thing, but a proper system of drainage ought to be carried out round your entire garden, or you will be constantly liable to failures. At the same time let us repeat the caution against heavy alteration or walking, wheeling, and working on your borders in bad weather, which transforms your land for the time being into a quagmire or brick-field. A good month of the year is this also for felling trees, or the removal of dead or straggling boughs; and have your wood, thus removed, properly cut up and sawn into lengths, sorted afterwards into their different heaps for fences or posts, pea and bean sticks, and lastly for firewood. In the flower garden, let us hope that all bulbs were put in quite by the end of last month; but if they were not, no time should be lost in finishing them off at once; the tulips indeed should have been got in by the first three weeks in November. But in this instance that we are now supposing of being behind time, your bulbs should not be put in quite so deep as they otherwise ought to be. After every frost examine your pink and pansy beds, as it will sometimes be found that the soil around them has been much disturbed and made sponge-like; the roots will probably, too, be found to have become exposed, in which case press them carefully into their places and smooth over the surface.

In our greenhouse this month there are three evils to be on our guard against, damp, frost, and—strange as it may sound—heat. And perhaps in this early winter time our greatest danger is damp. Tinidity in giving fresh air is one great cause of damp; lighting a roaring fire when there is little necessity for it, and having the windows closed all the time, raises your temperature much too high, and produces the danger of heat; while letting your fire afterwards go out—not properly banking it up—admits the frost. When there is no frost, light no fire; when there is much rain and wet fog, have a fire lit early in the morning, and open all the lights to carry out the moisture.

In the fruit and kitchen gardens, and orchard, you will generally—we are speaking to those only who are not afraid of heavy work—find plenty to be done this month. The trees in the orchard will probably want thinning and lopping—perhaps topping would have been a word more to the point—in all directions. How can you expect your fruit to thrive and come to perfection, if you allow your orchard to transform itself into a forest? And then there is the heavy trenching to be done, and in the event of severe frost adopt some means for the protection of many things hitherto thought winter-proof—such, for example, as the strawberry beds, and the brocoli, &c., from the loss of which so many suffered last year. And now 1881 will soon add another page to the history of the past. Some of us have been grumbling at “seven bad seasons;” but with them all there is plenty to be thankful for, and let us hope now that seven years of plenty are in store for us.