

The West Shore,

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TO LOVERS OF FLOWERS.

We should be pleased to receive short communications from all flower-lovers on subjects of floriculture, giving their experience, successes and failures. We also desire to engrave all our native flowers and should be pleased with descriptions and drawings of them or if drawing cannot be made, a flower and leaf pressed will do.

HOME MADE BEAUTIFUL.

Every home should smile with beauty. But few realize the magic power of a yard of flowers upon the household. Men cannot easily be sour and morose, women are not often heard to fret and scold, neither are children prone to seek pleasure with bad associates, when favored with beautiful yards for recreation at their homes. When whole families become interested in cultivating flowers, they feel a sweet blending sympathy and aspiration for the richer beauties that adorn the character and secure the esteem of the virtuous and the good. Who can love flowers and not love the morally beautiful? Or who can contemplate them as the creations of a beneficent Deity and not feel the more devout and thankful?

Secure seeds of at least a few of the choicest flowers. Such as make a brilliant show and are a long time in the blossoming stage are most desirable. For the benefit of the more inexperienced, I would name the following, a part or all of which may be secured for a trifling sum:

For white flowers, Sweet Alyssum and Candytuft; for red, Philox, Portulaca, Petunias, Pinks and Zinnias; for blue, Campanula, Gila, and Larkspur; and for yellow, the Marigold and Calliopsis. Add to these Mignonette for fragrance, Everlasting Flowers for winter bouquets, and the large Fancy German Pansies for exquisite beauty and a rich diversity of coloring.

As it is never wise to undertake too much at once, these will be sufficient to begin with. Then add every season to the list, until the yard on all sides smiles with beauty.

PLANTING SWEET VIOLETS.

Double flowering sweet violets are capital plants for edgings to beds, borders and walks. The best time to plant them is in the Spring, when the beds are staked up and got into shape for the season. Have a strong soil made rich with fowl manure, give them plenty of water mornings, not too much sun, and keep them in a cool place. Draw a line where it is desirable to form the edging, and after separating the plants into small pieces plant them firmly about six inches apart, along after the line. In a short time they will present an unbroken line of edge, and the next season they will give an abundance of their acceptable, fragrant flowers. The double Russian is the variety best adapted for this purpose. The annuals and other flowering plants can be planted quite close to the violets, as some shade will be found beneficial to them.

MANURE FOR THE ROSE.—Take two parts fowl or pigeon manure, four parts burned turf or earth, and four parts cow manure. Especially are the above beneficial in the Spring. The rose should be watered often while growing, with a mixture of two pounds of hen or pigeon manure to every six gallons of water; the best time to water is in the evening or on a cloudy day. Of all the flowers that delight the eye, none are so grandly beautiful as the rose.

Obstinacy and vehemence of opinion are the surest proofs of stupidity.

POT PLANTS.

HENRY MILLER.

About the first of May most plants in pots can be set out doors; they also look very pretty distributed amongst the flower beds. The pots should be sunk into the ground up to the rim, and a handful of ashes put under to keep angleworms out. It will do no harm if the roots run through, the plant will in fact in such cases grow much stronger, and in taking it up in the fall if the whole root cannot be saved it can be cut off; but the plant must be shortened in the top in proportion. Plants set out in this manner should be watered daily. Abutilons, Lemon Verbena, Century plant, Cactus, Hydrangea, Lantana, Heliotrope Oleander, Fuchsia, &c., will be much benefited, by planting out; it gives them a new start and in the fall they can mostly be potted in the same pots by reducing the ball some. In potting plants a mistake is often made by using pots entirely too large; it is safe to remember a plant cramped in its roots will bloom much sooner and better, than those in pots—they don't fill with roots. Now is a good time to shift plants into larger pots, if necessary. One inch

post and will require watering only once or twice a week. All the Sedums or mosses, so called, are calculated for rockwork. Verbenas in the sunniest place well watered and Pansy in the shadiest will give bloom all summer. Plant Gladiolos or Flaglilies among the Verbenas; the low Verbena partly hiding the long stocked Gladiolos and both will thereby be improved. Plant an old fashioned crimson Peona under a Snowball and the contrast is pleasing as they bloom at same time.

A GOOD FERTILIZER.—A good liquid fertilizer and one that will show its effects quickly may be made simply of wood-soot and ashes in proportion of one pint of soot to two gallons of water. Mix these ingredients together in the evening, and let stand till next evening, then apply by means of a sprinkler. Those who have never tried this fertilizer will be surprised at the power which it seems to possess.

TO REMOVE PLANTS FROM THE POT.—To turn out intact the contents of a flower pot, dampen the soil throughout, place the open palm upon the top, covering as much as possible; invert the pot, give a little jar against a table or door, and that, with the lifting up of the pot, insures you the contents in hand uninjured.



ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER, NEAR THE BLOCK HOUSE.

larger than the former size is all that is required. If no repotting is required clean off the upper soil to the roots and fill with fresh rich soil, or shake the plant out of the pot, reduce the ball an inch or so around, and set in same pot and fill up with fresh soil. Pots, when set out doors, should be placed where they can receive the morning sun up to 10 or 11 o'clock, but never where the noon or the afternoon sun can strike them, which would be sure to burn them. If plants have been kept in a very warm place or in a cellar they should not at once be exposed either to the hot sun or cold nights but gradually hardened off by setting them in a cool room for a while or by placing them on the porch in day time and taking in at night for about two weeks. Camellias, Begonias and Dahlias are better kept in a light room or conservatory all summer, and frequently sprinkled over head and well watered. Keep Calla-Lilies growing all the time, the drying off process is a mistake. Cannas make fine foliage plants in rich soil and if frequently watered. A Century plant, if large, makes a fine ornament on a gate

OUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.—In these days, when nearly all the good things in the vegetable world are fast becoming cosmopolitan, it is interesting to trace the nationality of some of the most familiar things in our daily fare. Seldom, while munching our matutinal radish, do we pause to conjure an imaginary bed of buried crimson and white in the far lands of Fang-Chou and Pys-Wamp; yet from China and Japan were the first Radishes introduced to the outside barbarians of Europe. Neither, at supper, in meeting with a peculiarly flavorful morsel in our cake, do we inwardly thank the home of Demosthenes for the luxury; yet the earliest Citron-groves breathed their perfume on the sunny Grecian ether. Our Quinces, hanging from crooked, crowded limbs, the most neglected of all our luxuries, may be forced to stand in drunken rows along broken-down fences, or act as outposts to barns and outhouses; but the great-grandmother of all the Quinces was a plucky little tree of high station, looked up to by sweet-scented shrubs in the Island of Crete.

Fennel grew wild along the banks of European rivers long before the first entertainment of the "Arabian Nights" was dreamed of; and Celery, once known as "Smallage," was munched by many an ancient Druid, let us believe, plucking it during his solitary walks along the old British coast. Even then, it may be, the ducks of an unknown continent were munching it too, for it grows wild upon our Chesapeake and Delaware bays, and our canvas-backs and their friends love to dine upon it. But the British, as usual, have all the credit, as it is down in their books.

Garlic came from Sicily, where, for my part, I wish it had staid. The *Caulo-rata*, an affiliated cross between the turnip and cabbage, claims the Fatherland for its own. Beans blossomed first within sight of embryo mummies, in the land of the Sphinx; and the Egg-plant first laid its glossy treasures under an African sun.

Peru and Chili were the first countries enlivened by the dazzling hues of the Nasturtian vine; and Southern Europe gave us the Artichoke and the Beet.

To Persia we stand indebted for Peaches, Walnuts, Mulberries, and a score of everyday luxuries and necessities; to Arabia we owe the cultivation of Spinage; and to Southern Europe we must bow in tearful gratitude for the Horse-radish.

At Siberia the victims of modern intemperance may shake their gory locks forever—for from that cold, unsocial land came Rye, the father of the great fire-water river which has floated so many jolly souls on its treacherous tides, and engulfed so much of humanity's treasure.

The Chestnut, dear to squirrels and young America, first dropped its burns on Italian soil, while its giant cousin, cyclops the "Horse," is a native of Thibet.

Who ever dreams, while enjoying his "Bartlett," his "Flemish Beauty," or his "Jargonelle," that the first Pear-blossom opened within sight of the Pyramids? and what fair school-girl of all the pickle-eating tribe, dreams of thanking the East Indies for her Cucumbers? Apropos of this, I once was told by a worthy old lady, a singular item in regard to the last-named edible. She said that in its wild state it grew on very luxuriant vines that trailed in every direction over the ground, tangling themselves among the bushes at such a rate that the progress of grazing animals was thereby much impeded; hence, she assured me, the name, *cucum-ber*. The old lady's learning, I admit, was generally not of the most reliable order, but I give her suggestion for what it may be worth. Probably she was in some way akin to that other worthy old lady who, when asked by her city nephew, why in the world she called a certain vegetable "Sparrow-grass," replied, innocently:

"Well, child, I can't say where these names come from generally, but certain it's as plain as the nose on your face that sparrow-grass must get its name from the sparrows feedin' on it so plentiful when it's in seed."

The nephew chuckled inwardly, of course. But he, poor fellow, was ignorant in his turn; for he didn't know that Asparagus was first found in Russia and Poland; and that in its wild state, as gathered along the shores of Long Island Sound and elsewhere, it is a most delicious edible.

VARIEGATED LEAVES.—Among favorite objects of cultivation in green-houses and ornamental gardens, of late years, are plants having variegated leaves; and no effort has been spared to secure the greatest possible variety. Any plant may, it is said, be variegated by inoculating into it the sap of one already variegated by means of ingrafting. The cause of this phenomenon, according to Mr. Morren, consists in the existence of minute corpuscles which have no green color like the ordinary corpuscles, presenting an analogy to albinism in the animal kingdom.