

Dutch Bulbs.

There are few ornaments of the flower bed or of the winter window so easily managed and so deservedly popular as the various Dutch bulbs, and as this is the best time to prepare for planting them, we will have a few words to say as to their management.

And first as to out of door planting. The spot chosen for the bed should be sheltered from the cold winds of spring, so that the first warm, sunny days in March may bring up the Crocuses and Snowdrops in a joyous promise of coming spring.

Most of the smaller bulbs will do best by planting them in little clumps or clusters about two inches apart each way. The snowdrop and crocus and scilla will thrive in this manner, and give a much better effect to the garden than when scattered about too much; and, moreover, are less likely to be damaged by careless cultivation of the garden than when isolated.

After the bulbs are done flowering they should be left undisturbed as long as the foliage is green; when this turns yellow and drops down they may be dug up and dried in a shady place but then stowed away in paper bags or in drawers to be planted the next fall.

The Hyacinth—This universal favorite comes a little later than the snowdrop and crocus, but is perhaps the most elegant and beautiful of all the bulbs. There are many colors and varieties too numerous to mention here, but no collection should be without the beautiful feather hyacinth.

For Window Gardening, however, the snowdrop and crocus, the hyacinth and the cyclamen are especially adapted. They should be planted now in pots of about six inches in diameter, several bulbs in a pot if small; they should be watered and set away in a cool cellar until they begin to show signs of growth; they must make roots first and then they can be safely brought into the light and warmth of a common house room and forced into flower; if they can conveniently be placed in a sleeping room at first where it does not freeze and where the temperature is about 40 degrees to 60 degrees, they will come forward more healthily than if brought at once into a sitting-room with a dry heat of 70 degrees or 75 degrees.

The Anemone is later, and a little too delicate to endure our winters without careful covering; its rare beauty will, however, well repay the needful trouble of covering it in November with a good mulch of leaves or evergreen boughs.

The Tulip has its place in the garden in giving brilliant masses of gorgeous color. The flowers are too coarse and the colors too raw and crude to be very useful in the bouquet or the drawing-room; its odor, too, is not agreeable—it is perfectly hardy and comes just after the hyacinth in May.

The Scilla is one of the most lovely of all the bulbous flowers and is perfectly hardy.

The Lily of the Valley is perhaps the most deservedly and universally popular of all the bulbs. The purity of its white flowers, the rare delicacy and grace of its habit, and its most delicious fragrance combine to make it an appropriate bridal ornament, for which purpose it is used almost as much as the Orange flower. The skillful florists force it into flower at all times in winter, but its management when forced is rather too difficult for success in the window of a common house.

Bulbs that have been forced are hardly worth saving for replanting, but can be made to bear an inferior crop of flowers by allowing them to remain in the pots till after the leaves drop and then taking them out and keeping them dry till the next fall. The Cyclamen needs a little different treatment. The pots should be plunged out of doors in May, and the bulbs reotted in fresh earth in fall; or the bulbs can be taken out of the pots and planted in the garden and reotted in fall. This is one of the most beautiful and lovely of all the winter flowers that can be raised in the house.

The bulbs are excellent plants for house culture; they will endure the dry heat and dust of an ordinary parlor better than most other plants, and are not infested by insects.

A Great Loss to France.

The announcement of the death of Thiers was startling in its suddenness. Though already an octogenarian, so wonderful was his vitality that he might reasonably have been expected to live for ten years more. His death, in the maturity of his powers, with every faculty alert and vigorous, is a great loss to the world, and may prove a great calamity to France.

Louis Adolphe Thiers was born at Marseilles in 1797, of bourgeois parentage. He at first intended to enter the army, but on the death of Napoleon I. his friends selected for him the profession of an advocate, and he was sent to the Academy of Aix. After a brilliant career as a student he was admitted to the bar in 1820, and began the practice of law in Paris. Meeting with little success, he soon turned his attention to journalism, becoming a contributor to *Le Constitutionnel*.

His political articles in this journal attracted the favorable notice of Talleyrand, and not long after a wealthy admirer purchased for him a share in the proprietorship of the paper. In 1823 he made his appearance in the world of letters by publishing his *Histoire de la Revolution Francaise*—a work which at once attained a great and deserved popularity. During the whole of his busy life he was continually publishing pamphlets and bulky volumes, sufficient in themselves to have occupied the entire time of a man of ordinary industry. His *Histoire du Consulat et de l'Empire* is the most elaborate of these works.

But Thiers was not the man to choose the quiet of an author's life. He took a prominent part with Lafayette and others in the *coup d'etat* which overthrew Charles X., and became Minister of the Interior under Louis Philippe, and afterwards Minister of Commerce and Public Works. His energy and executive power were marvellous, and fresh life was infused into every department with which he was connected. In 1836 he became Premier, but was soon forced to resign, only to be recalled again in a few months. It was a critical time. The King was unpopular and his throne unstable, but with strange fatuity he refused heartily to support the only man who could have saved his government. Thiers again resigned, and resumed his literary labors.

After the overthrow of Louis Philippe in 1848, Thiers opposed Louis Napoleon's rise to power, and became so odious to the latter that he was arrested at the *coup d'etat* by which the President of the Republic made himself the Emperor Napoleon III. He was soon released, and after a few years' retirement made his appearance in the *Corps Legislatif* as the leader of a powerful opposition. His services to France as President of the Republic, after Napoleon's disastrous war with Germany, are too recent to need comment.

Thiers's well known preferences were of a limited monarchy, like that of the Orleans princes. But though a sincere monarchist, he was above all things else a patriot. This is the key to a political history which would otherwise seem to be that of a mere trimmer. France was his idol, and for France he was monarchist, imperialist, and republican by turns! During the last years of his life he accepted the Republic in good faith as probably the best possible government for his country in its present condition. And probably there was no other man in all France to whom so many eyes were turned, and in whom so many firmly trusted.

With little danger of exaggeration, Thiers might one week ago have been pronounced the greatest man in France, if not in Europe. Others there were in the Academy, of which he was a member, who had won greater laurels in literature; there were men who had far outstripped him at the bar; who had surpassed him as an orator; who wielded greater influence over the destinies of Europe. But in the combination of the man of letters and the man of affairs—historian, lawyer, orator, statesman—there was not a man in all France, there were few in all Europe, who could be called his peer.

When we add to this that his integrity was never called in question even by his enemies, and that he was a man of estimable private qualities, what wonder that he filled so many high posts in the State, and filled them with such honor to himself and such lasting benefit to his country? What wonder that all turned to him after the overthrow of the Commune, as the only man who could create a new future for France? What wonder that during the present troubles, arising from President MacMahon's arbitrary and revolutionary measures, the hopes of Republican France were centered in him?

The death of a leader in the very midst of the shock of battle is always disheartening. The loss of such a leader is almost equivalent to a defeat. Thiers was unquestionably the chief obstacle to the *coup d'etat* which there seems good reason to believe the Marshal-President is meditating. The Republicans are numerically strong, but they lack a head. Gambetta, though for a year or two he has sobbered wonderfully, is too erratic; he has not yet demonstrated his capacity as a leader, or prove that he would be a safe leader, if a capable one. There are trying days for France in the near future—days in which she will need all the wisdom, coolness, integrity and patriotism of a Thiers. It is in view of this fact that we say the death of her greatest man may prove to be not only a great loss but a great calamity.—*N. Y. Examiner and Chronicle*.

BRIGHAM YOUNG left several tons of widows. One of his wives was a Teuton.

Putting a Bull to the Test.

They had a discussion over at Miller's the other day about bulls. Mr. Miller said that it was all nonsense to talk about a bull being excited and made furious by a red rag. He said he had an ugly-tempered Devon bull over in the field who would take it like a lamb if you would stake the flags of all the nations in his face. Dr. Robinson said that Miller daren't try it, and Miller bet Robinson that he would. So Miller went into the house and loaded himself up with a red flannel undershirt, and we all walked out to the field. The bull was there, looking as calm as a summer morning. Miller climbed the fence, and went toward the animal, keeping the shirt behind him. As he came close to the bull he suddenly produced the shirt, and flirited it in the bull's face. The beast jumped back a yard or two in astonishment, and kept his eye on Miller, while Miller waved the old vermilion garment vigorously. Then the bull shook his head several times, as if he declined to have anything to do with the business; and Miller turned toward us and put his thumb to his nose and wiggled his fingers; while he was making this signal of victory, an idea seemed to strike the bull. He put his head down and moved swiftly forward. Miller at first thought there had been an earthquake. He was hurled up twenty feet, and when he struck the ground he made another ascension. Upon his descent he thought the world try to run, but a Devon short-horn was inserted in his trousers, and again he went up high enough to make a bird's-eye view of the surrounding country. On the twenty-fifth descent he fell on the other side of the fence from the bull, and we picked him up. His clothes were in ribbons. His nose was furred and bloody, and his mouth was full of grass and mud.

We asked him how he felt; but he said nothing. We inquired concerning the condition of his bones, but he made no reply. We asked if his views about bulls had undergone any change, but he walked silently along. We wanted to know how he enjoyed the scenery the last time he went up, but he would not say. He merely went into the house, filled up both barrels of his gun with old nails, and screws, and scraps of iron, and then he went out to interview that bull. The animal was a corpse in ten minutes, and then Miller peeled his undershirt and went up stairs to bed.

We know what his views are now, although he doesn't express them freely.—*Max Adler*.

CHILDREN who have been the pets of the house are almost invariably afflicted with jealousy at the advent of a new baby. A lady asked a little boy under these circumstances how he liked his little sister. "I don't think she agrees with me," he replied.

"Why don't she agree with you?" "I don't know," he said, "but I couldn't bear to see mother kiss her."

NEARLY one-half of the voters in Georgia consist of colored people, and yet not a single colored man, in the whole state, is a member of the Constitutional Convention now in session.

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