CHAPTER VIII.

According to what had grown into father by the gate which commanded the steep track, and another delightful evening, all too short, was spent. Music, talk of England, the life there, all had their turn, and then came the time to go, Helen walking beneath the great mellow stars down with her visitor to the gate, for the last good-night path. -that farewell which takes so many times to say, and was here prolonged till Redgrave's voice was heard.

"Coming, papa," cried the girl, as she clung to Digby's hand. "Then you go," she whispered, "to the barranco tomorrow?"

"Yes; in good time."

"I shall see you at night?"

"Of course." "And you will take care. I have heard that some of these places are

very dangerous." "Take care? Yes; for your sake." he whispered. "Once more, good-night."

He ran off, to master the longing to stay; and with an uneasy feeling at heart, Helen returned slowly to the house, wishing that he had not come alone, so as to have a companion back along the dark path, where it would be so easy for an enemy to do him

She cast away the foolish dread directly, and with good cause, for Digby reached the venta about the same time as Fraser returned from his late stay with Ramon; and after a short chat over their morrow's plans, they both went to bed.

The sun was streaming into Digby's room when he awoke the next morning with the sensation upon him that it was very late; and on springing out of bed it was to find a piece of notepaper lying on his dressing-table, on which was written:

"You were sleeping so soundly I would not disturb you. I have gone on. Eat your breakfast, and follow at your leisure."

Digby dressed under a feeling of annoyance at his friend's desertion. He did not particularly want to join in the trip, for he had seen enough of the island and would far rather have gone up to Redgrave's; but Fraser's start alone made him immediately feel an intense longing to be off; and consequently he quite upset his Spanish landlady by his hurried and scanty meal.

"Too bad of Horace," he grumbled to himself as he set off up the mountain track to where it diverged, and the path led to Ramon's plantations, with the house away to the left in a beautiful nook which commanded a view of the distant islands.

For a moment he hesitated as to whether he should walk down to Ramon's for a chat before starting; and he hesitated again after going a few yards; but finally he stepped out boldly with the hot sun pouring down; and as he went on, a careworn face was slowly raised from out of a clump of At last though, he saw a dim light far rocky side of the barranco grew less made large, stocky plants and are reasemi-tropical foliage, and Fraser stood well concealed, watching him till he passed out of sight. Then, after a cautious look round, he sank back into his place of conrealment, and the birds that had flitted away returned, the stillness around being unbroken, save when the low deep murmur of the surf arose from far below.

"Too bad of old Horace," said Digby, as he strode along, past Ramon's plantations till the wild country began; and recognizing various places he had bowels of the mountain. passed before, the young explorer soon' reached the spot where the track lead- him, for, as he passed his hands over ing to the barranco commenced-a path the rough vesicular lava, which was growing fainter and fainter, and more in place as sharp as when it had cooled obliterated by the abundant growth, down after some eruption hundreds of till it gradually became a mere shelf years before, he found that it seemed on the mountain side. The dense tan- to curve over like a dome above his gle at first sloped down to his left, | head; and though he followed it for and up to his right, but grew more and some distance, he could find no place more precipitous, till there was an where there was the faintest possibility almost perpendicular wall of volcanic of his climbing up to the day. rock out of which the shrubby growth | "Ahoy! Fraser!" he shouted aloud, and ferns spread out, and formed a and then paused aghast, for his voice shadowy arch, which screened him from | seemed to pass echoing hollowly away, the sun; while a foot away on his left | giving him an idea of the vastness of there was a profound drop, the rock | the place in which he was confined. again going perpendicularly down, and in places the shelf along which he passed quite overhung the verdant gorge.

of hours, during which he went on trap into which he had fallen, and that and on along the shelf, whose abundant for it was only at times that he obtain- ed until he died of exhaustion-mad. ed a glimpse of the depths below, where some avalanche of stones had crashed mind, and spoke aloud in a reassuring down from above and swept the trees tone. "I am not surrounded by hor-

"He's right; it is a glorious walk," cried Digby enthusiastically; "only, it

dering that he had seen no traces left will search for me. Ramon knew I was by his friend, but soon forgetting this coming here, and I have nothing to in the fresh glories of the overshad- do but sit and wait till I hear voices; owed path, and the lovely glints of and then a shout will do the rest. Hor- citedly. "Hoky is she?" sunshine in the zigzagging tunnel of ace tannot be long." ferns and creepers, which literally "Good heavens!" he ejaculated afseemed to flow down in cascades of ter a pause, "suppose the poor fellow growing leafage from the wall on his should tread upon the broken place

"Nature must have made this path." when I came along. It is all open sharply at the table, for everything he said to himself; "and it can only now." be seldom trod. Leads to nowhere, of He leaned against the side of the course, and -- Hillo! here's the end." | cave, thinking of his misfortune, and | you are hurt like this?" For, at a sudden turn, after passing listening for step or voice to break an angle of the rock, he found himself | the terrible silence around him; but | Helen? Ramon?" face to face with a huge mass of stone, all was perfectly still; and think how which had evidently lately slipped from he would, he could not keep back an oca few feet above the track, and com- casional shudder at the idea of passing pletely blocked the way.

, the left of the large block the green growth had been trampled down, the shelf being wide enough for any one a custom, Digby found Helen and her to pass round, though the gorge seemed there to be almost dark, so filled up was it with the tops of the trees which bristled from its side.

"The old boy has been round here seen his marks.-My word he has been design, and the contriver's idea to rid strode on to the door and knocked. chipping away here," he added, as he looked at the broken fragments of stroke?-No; the thought was too horstone in the newly made curve of the rible, and he would not harbour it.

Without a moment's hesitation he stepped down, then took another step for the way descended apparently, to rise again beyond the block. Then brushwood laid across to form a level way; and as he did so, he uttered a wild cry, and snatched at the rocky advances to Helen. side to save himself. Vain effort, for everything had given way beneath him, and he dropped headlong, to fall, after

heavily far below. He was conscious of an agonizing sensation of pain, then of a stifling dust, of a sickening stupefying dizziness, and then all was darkness.

How long he lay there stunned he could not tell; but he seemed to struggle into wakefulness out of a terrible feverish dream, to find that all was was stranger and more wild than his darkness and mental confusion. What | recovery from the stunning fall. it all meant was a mystery; for his was hours before he could grasp where head was thick and heavy, and mem- he was, and then he found himself lying ory refused to give him back the re- upon the soft dust, so stiff that he

But he realised at last that he was It was dark as ever; and he lay listawake, and that he was lying upon ening and hoping for the relief which what seemed to be fragments of sticks; | did not come, trying to be cool and and as he groped about he touched think chit some means of escape, and something which set him wondering still telling himself that he had exfor the moment, before he could grasp | aggerated, and that Helen was safe; hot bed, or window box in starting the what it was he held. Then he uttered this was but an accident. a cry of horror and recoiled, for his finger and thumb had passed into two dreading the pain that followed every bony orbits, and he knew that the ob- movement, he became conscious that ject he had grasped was a human skull! | the air was cool and pleasant and re-

CHAPTER IX.

As Digby cast down the grisly relic of mortality, he clapped his hands to his throbbing brow, and shrank farther and farther away, feeling as if his reason was tottering, and for a time the mastery of his mind had gone. But this terrible sensation passed away as quickly as it had come, and he stamped one of his feet with rage.

He shrank away, for his act had raised a cloud of pungent choking dust, air; so, forcing himself to rise, he bewhich horrified him again. But this gan to walk slowly and cautiously in only served to make him recover his the direction from which it came, with | der plants. A too low temperature will mental balance; and as he stood there the result that, after about an hour's in the utter darkness, he seemed to see slow progression over what was really once more the side of that other ravine but a short distance, he suddenly they had skirted weeks back, when he caught sight of a pale greenish ray of had drawn Fraser's attention to the light, and his heart seemed to give a climbing figure which they had after- bound. wards encountered as he crept up with The rest was easy. Ten minutes his basket.

he said; "I'm better now; so—What's tell. this?—Yes, it must be; I'm bleeding." He felt the back of his head, and winc,ed, for it was cut badly, and a tiny warm streak was trickling down his ing himself what he should do. He was

"That's soon doctored," he muttered, as he folded and bound a handkerchief about his brow. "Now then; how far have I fallen, and how am I to

He began to move about cautiously, looking up the while in search of the opening through which he had come; but for some minutes he looked in vain. above him, not the sky or the open- perpendicular, and less and less so, till dy to plant in the field. The sashes or ing through which he had fallen, but a faintly reflected gleam, which feebly showed something black above his head; and at last he reached the conclusion that the opening down which he had dropped was not straight, but sloped to and fro in a rough zigzag.

"How horrible!" he muttered. "Yet what a blessing!" he added. "If the fall had been sheer, I must have been

By cautious progression he at last found the side, but not until he had gone in two other directions, which seemed to lead him farther into the

This discovery di dnot seem to help

And now for a few moments his for-

mer sensation of horror attacked him, as he felt that he might possibly never! And so it continued for quite a couple | be able to extricate himself from the he might go on wandering amongst growth hid the danger of the way; the horrors by which he was surround-Again he mastered his wandering reply.

rers." he said calmly. "That which is here ought to alarm no man of wellbalanced intellect. It is known that seems so stupid to be enjoying it all I have come this way, by the people turned. at the inn -- No: I did not tell them. For another hour he went on, won- But Fraser knew I was coming, and he

and fall !- No fear. It was covered "Gone?" panted Digby, catching

a night where he was.

that's it." He smiled as he saw that to lage; and then he began to think about ly for a long space; and then gripped few hours after this is done the plants

him for long enough, till the increas- laconically; and almost ready to fall about the roots of each, by using a ing pain and stiffness of his injuries with bodily weakness, but with his sharp trowel, or a spade, if they are turned the current of his thoughts to agonising thoughts spurring him on, far enough apart to allow of the usehis rival; and then, like a flash, a sus- Digby thrust his arm through Red- of the latter implement. The plants picion came to him: "What did Hor- grave's and walked with him step for should then be placed in carrying boxes, ace say ?-The man was treacherous and step. false! Great heaven, have I fallen into his trap?"

He tried to argue the thought away; but the idea was only strengthened. Ramon had been so anxious for him to come there-for both of them. The, path had evidently been altered, Digby; but Redgrave, whose face look- acre, when planted 5x3 feet apart. If by accident or design. Was it ed stony in his dispair, made no reply, badly grown and the plants are tall and himself of two men he detested at one

Vain effort: it grew the stronger; and as the time sped on, and the hurt produced a feverish sensation of halfdelirium, Digby found himself fully believing that Ramon had contrived this another step on to some fagot-like pitfall; that there was no escape; and that freed from his presence, the SOME HINTS ABOUT GROWING AND treacherous Spaniard would renew his

The agony increased, and with the mental suffering came a wild feverish By John Craig, Horticulturist of the Cen horror, which grew upon him till his what seemed to be a terrible descent, brain throbbed; a sense of confusion which he could not overcome, increased; and at last-long after he had fallen -he felt that he could bear no more, and all was blank.

CHAPTER X.

Digby's awakening from his stupor collection of his wark and sudden fall. could hardly move an inch.

As he lay there, longing to rise, and freshing to his burning brow. Then, by slow, degrees it struck him that the wind came in a soft steady current on one cheek; and by-and-by, reason suggested to him that this cool current of air must come from some opening far away in the great cavern.

He shivered at first at the idea of plunging farther into the darkness, for how did he know where his faltering steps might lead him, and what hidectis chasms might be yawning in his path?

Still, there was the cool current of

cautious progress over the dust brought "I must have fallen, then, into one him to the opening, a rift in the rock of the ancient mummy caves," he said, | overgrown with hanging creepers; and trying to speak aloud and coolly, pushing these aside, he found himself though his words came for the moment gazing out of what was like a roughly hurriedly and sounded excited and broken natural window in the perpendicular rocky face of the barranco, He paused again, and wiped the dank which seemed to go down hundreds of perspiration from his brow. "There," feet below. How far up, he could not

It was dull and the wind blew in fitful puffs, which swept the leaves aside as he stood there for a time, askin no trim for climbing up such a place this; but would it be possible to get plants are removed when they begin to

It seemed a risk; but anything was better than staying in that loathsome and, to his great delight, found, after cautiously going down about a hundred feet from creeper to creeper, that the there was no danger, only an awkward descent of a slope, which landed him on gazing up right and left, there were the rocky sides of the ravine, and above them, the dull gray sky, with one tiny orange speck far ahead.

Then he grasped the idea that it was early morning-before sunrise, and that he must have passed the night in a feverish slumber in that dreadful

place. The next step was easy. He knew that if he followed the little stream sooner of later it would lead him to the seashore; and after slaking his | 75 degrees. Additional cold frames thirst at one of the pools, he bathed his | should be provided for the reception of feverish temples and set off refreshed. Somehow, he could not think about Helen. He felt as if he dared not. He could only dwell upon the fact that a pitfall had been prepared for him, and he wanted to call Ramon to account. Then, too, he wanted to know where Fraser was; why he had not come to his help, and why he had gone of the temperature of the dwelling off before him.

Strange problems these for an injured man to solve, and the only result of his attempts was for his head to grow

more confused. It was a long and painful journey; and the sun had risen hours before Digby had crept out on to the black sands, where quite a gale was blowing, as the great Atlantic billows came rolling in. Then he made his way round to the little inn.

The landlady gazed at him in horror, and began talking to him volubly in Spanish, to which Digby could not

"The senor-Senor Fraser?" he said; but the woman only shook her head; and he was on the point of starting off, when Redgrave came hurriedly to the door to ask if Fraser and he had re-

"Ah, you are here!" cried Redgrave excitedly. "What does all this mean? Where is Fraser? Why are you hurt? Helen ?"

"Yes-Helen?" grasped Digby ex-"Gone!" cried Redgrave, with a .fierce vindictiveness in his tones which made the young man gaze at him wonderingly.

seemed to be whirling round. "Yes. You do not know? How is it "Don't question me. A fall. But

"No," said Redgrave, sadly "he swears he knows nothing." "It is not true," cried Digby fiercely. "It is his work. He planned to mur-"That's awkward," he said thought- "Couldn't be darker than day," he der me and he has taken her away."

led to Ramon's house.

A quiet-looking Spanish servant ans-

wered the summons. (To Be Continued.)

MARKETING.

tral Experimental Farm.

The possibility of marketing Canadian Tomatoes profitably in England has aroused a spirit of enquiry among market gardeners and fruit growers, relative to the best methods of growing the plants, packing the fruit, and the best varieties to cultivate for this special purpose. The following notes are prepared with a view of briefly answering these questions.

RAISING PLANTS.

The summer season of Ontario and Quebec is not long enough to admit of the profitable cultivation of tomatoes without the aid of a greenhouse, plants in spring.

Soil for Seed Boxes .- The soil should not be too rich. A mellow loam of good quality, with sand added to the extent of one-fifth of the whole, will produce stronger and healthier plants than will the leaf mould one frequently meets with in the soil of window boxes. If a greenhouse is available, the seed may be sown about the middle of March, or a month earlier if the plants are intended to serve the demands of the home market. A high temperature, 65 degrees to 70 degrees at night and 80 degrees to 85 degrees in the day time, will produce large, succulent, but tenproduce stunted weaklings. Neither class is desirable. It is better, however to have the temperature slightly too warm, than too cold, in consideration of the nature of the plant. Sow the seed thinly, in rows six inches apart, pressing the soil firmly over the rows. An ounce contains 8,000 to 10,000 seeds. The seedlings should be transplanted at least twice before setting them in the open field. This treatment gives strong, stocky plants. If grown in the greenhouse, the seedlings should be 'pricked" into "flats" (shallow boxes) soon after the true leaves appear, setting them two to three inches apart each way. From these "flats" the crowd each other to the cold frame, or hot bed, setting them six to eight inplace; so, seizing the stoatest creepen | ches apart each way, or further if the within his reach, he began to descend; plants are large. By the middle-or in a backward season-the last week of May (in this section) they will have

other covers used to protect the frames at last by a trickling stream; while, should be kept off the frames to harden them, for some time previous to setting the plants out. When the seed is sown directly in

the hot bed, this should be done early in April. A strong, even heat is desirable, such as may be secured from a two-foot bed of horse manure. Sow the seed in four or five inches of soil, after the heat of the bed has subsided to the plants when they are removed from the seed rows. Transplant twice, if possible, before setting in the field.

may be grown in boxes of soil, or in house and the lack of light, the plants are often "drawn," stunted or othernumber of plants is required a hot bed should be employed. The remarks made above on transplanting from the seed rows apply with equal force whether plants are grown in the greenhouse, in the hot bed, or in the dwelling house. FIELD CULTURE.

Soil.—It is a mistake to plant tomawell grown tomatoes need not be ex- productive. pected unless the soil is fairly well enriched. Poor soils, produce early, but small, and often badly shaped and much wrinkled tomatoes. Sandy or light clay loams, well drained, and well manured give the best results.

Preparing the Ground.-Plough deeply in the fall. In the spring apply 20 tons to 30 tons of barn-yard manure to the acre, plough again and harrow smooth two or three weeks before planting time. Harrow again just before marking out the rows, to destroy the

first crop of weeds. tivating the plants and of picking the fruit. Planting will be expedited if a light-furrow is opened in the line of each row.

Planting.-Before lifting the plants out of the boxes or frames, the soil in which they are growing should be thoroughly watered, so that it will be saturated to the depth of the lower ex- Bricks cannot be made without straw, fully. "Too steen to get over .- Ha! said with a laugh to restore his cour- Redgrave stood gazing at him wild- tremities of the roots of the plants. A

Helen, a bright subject, which lasted him by the arm. "Come" he said may be taken up with a ball of earth transported to the field in a cart, or In a few minutes he saw whither he wheelbarrow and set in the freshly was being led; and ten minutes later, furrows. When planted, the ball of with his heart sinking lower, Red- earth should be about an inch below grave was going down the path which the surface, and the soil firmly pressed about the lower roots. About three "Yet will not find him." groaned thousand plants are required to set each spindling, they should be set in a slanting position with a view of covering the procumbent stem with soil so that it may strike root.

Cultivation.-Shallow and level cultivation should be given for a month after setting out. It is than advisable to attach the moulding wings to the cultivator and with these turn a slight furrow to the plants. The operation of hilling is finished by making with a hoe, about each plant, a broad sloping mound two or three inches in height. This will tend to distribute the fruit and vines and by shedding rain will, to some extent, lessen the tendency to rot. After hilling, the level surface should be cultivated as long as it is possible to do so without injury to the plants. If growth is unsatisfactory it may be stimulated, by a light application to each plant of a mixture of muriate of potash or wood ashes and of nitrate of soda. Muriate of potash, 100 pounds, or wood ashes, 1,000 pounds, and nitrate of soda, 200 pounds per acre may generally be used with advantage. This mixture may best be applied by scattering it around each plant before hill-

Training .- In field culture, it does not pay to train tomato plants to stakes or trellises. This system belongs to the garden of the amateur and may there be practised with economy as to space and satisfaction as to general results. In the field, some attention should be given towards securing a proper disposition of the naturally sprawling branches, to prevent too much interlacing and to secure their proper distribution.

PICKING AND PACKING.

Packing for the Home Market .- Pick the fruit when fully coloured, being careful to avoid bruising it. Discard all ill-shapen or blemished specimens, The fruit should be carried in baskets, to the sorting shed and then carefully packed in the shipping baskets or packages. Place the fruit in the basket with the stem end downwards, wiping such specimens as are soiled, finishing the package with a "smooth face," Strong baskets-veneer is better than the splint-should be used, and these covered with a stout frame-like cover made of the veneer trimming material, but centered with leno, so that the

fruit may be readily inspected. Packing for Foreign Market .- If the fruit is intended for the European market, it should be picked when fully grown and just beginning to change colour,-if it is to be forwarded in thoroughly / refrigerated compartments. Partly coloured specimens forwarded last year to Liverpool, with imperfect ice refrigeration, arrived in an overripe and unsatisfactory condition. If shipped by ordinary freight, which may be successfully done with moderately cool compartments and good ventilation, the fruit should be packed when fully developed, but when yet green in colour and well "glazed." All fruit should be carefully graded as to size and with due regard to its characteristic colour when mature. Scarlet and purplish red varieties should not be packed together in the same case.

PACKAGES.

Light, strong wooden ventilated cases are recommended. A case of the dimensions given below will hold about 20 lbs. of medium sized tomatoes in two rows-or layers-about four dozen tomatoes deep. The layers should be separated by a sheet of stiff cardboard,unless each specimen is wrapped in tissue or light printers' paper,-even with this precaution the cardboard division will be found useful. To prevent the fruit from shaking, place a layer of clean "excelsior" over the fruit before nailing down the cover.

The words "Canadian Tomatoes," should be branded upon the ends of each case. The name and the address of the grower should appear printed on a sheet within,

Dimensions of Case Outside.—Length 22 inches; width 10 inches; depth 5 1-2 inches. It should be provided with a partition placed crosswise in the middle. The boxes should be made of planed lumber, bass-wood, preferably, with bored holes in the ends, or slits along the corners to give ventilation. Boards of the following thicknesses may be used in the construction of this box. Ends and partition 5-8 inch; sides, top and In Window Boxes.-Fairly good plants | bottom 3-8 inch. Ventilation may be provided for, by using slightly narrower flower pots placed in well lighted side pieces than called for by the depth rooms; but owing to the fluctuations of the box-say 4 3-4 inches. The top and bottom pieces should come flush to the corners. This would leave a narrow ventilating slit at each corner withwise injured. When any considerable out weakening the case to any extent.

VARIETIES. If it is intended to ship the fruit to

distant points, medium sized, smooth, solid varieties should be grown. Most of the extra early kinds are inclined to be rough or wrinkled. Among those that seem best suited for export purposes, as tested here, are:-Longkeeptoes in poor soil. It is true that a warm | er (Thorburn), Stone (Livingston), Favand somewhat light soil will produce ourite (Livingston), Liberty Bell and better plants and earlier fruit than a | Cook's Favourite. Dwarf Champion is heavy clay, but a large crop of smooth, a smooth, desirable sort, but not very

HOUSEKEEPING SCHOOLS.

We have been reading an account or a free housekeeping school in Brussels, through which one hundred girls pass every year in classes of ten, each attending one week at a time four times a year. They are taught to go marketing wisely, to cook well and attractively, and to make clothes. They Setting the Plants.-It is better to know the cost of everything they use. set the plants in rows 5x3 feet apart | Such schools are not uncommon throughthan 4x4 feet apart each way, as the out Europe. Why should they not be wider space facilitates the work of cul- common in this land of free schools? The basis of our nation, we often say, is the home; but we permit our homemakers, so far as the state is concerned. to go to their difficult task totally unprepared for it. In hundreds of thousands of cases, waste and want, cheerless houses, tawdry clothes, poorly nourished families are the results. or wise homes without wise training for home-making.