

The Scrap Book.

Here Wit in bright effulgence glows, With Wisdom joined, through rhyme and prose, And both unite their charms in one, To form the sage and humorous pun.

Motto for the Governor of Utah:—Go it while you're Young.

The editor of a newspaper, down East, has been led to improve the circulation of his paper.

A wag proposes to publish a new paper to be called the Comet, with an original tail every week.

When the Irishman first tried peaches, he said he liked their flavor but the seeds lay hard on his stomach.

Why is a woman's tongue like a planet? Because nothing short of the Power that created it is able to stop it.

A paper announces the marriage of A. Wolf to Mary Lamb. "The wolf and the lamb shall lie down together, and a little child shall lead them"—after a while.

"Father," said a cobbler's lad, pegging away at an old shoe, "they say that trout bite good now." "Well, well," replied the old gentleman, "you stick to your work and they won't bite you!"

A beggar asking Dr. Smollett for alms; he gave him, by mistake, a guinea. The poor fellow, on perceiving it, hobbled after him to return it, upon which Smollett returned it to him with another.

The shape of a kiss is said (by the editor of the Louisville Times) to be elliptical. This must be derived from the sensation one experiences when enjoying the luxury, for it is certainly a slip tinkle.

In the Irish House of Commons, one night a blustering orator having triumphantly, as he thought, exclaimed: "I am the guardian of my own honor," Sir Boyle Roche quietly settled the orator by saying—"I wish the gentleman joy in his secure appointment."

"Charley," said a father to his son, while they were working in a saw mill, "what possesses you to associate with such girls as you do? When I was of your age I could go with the first cut." "The first cut," said the son, as he assisted the old man in rolling over a log, "is always a slab."

The local editor of an exchange, publishes a panning 'market report,' in which he states, tin plates are flat, lead heavy, iron dull, rakes not much enquired for, champagne is brisk, ribnabard and senna are drugs, starch is stiffening, and paper is stationary. There is no life in dead hogs, but considerable animation in old cheese.

Will you have a Daily Sun? said a newsboy to Mrs. Partington. Will I have a Daily Sun! Why you little scapegrace! How dare you insinuate against a lone woman from home? No indeed, I guess I won't have a Daily Sun! My poor mind man used to complain most awfully when I presented him with a yearly Sun! A daily sun, indeed! Begone, you little upstart imp! And the old lady called for the turkey-tail fan to keep her from swooning.

An Emerald having two legs of unequal dimensions, ordered a pair of boots to be manufactured accordingly. The boots were sent him; but upon trying them on he trasposed them. The smaller boot didn't begin to look upon the largest leg, and the perspiration accompanied the experiment. "By the piper of Moses! sure I bargained to have one boot larger than the other, instead of which the spallpeen has made one smaller than the other. Be jabers, an' I'll not take them sure." The boots were sent back.

An exchange paper tells a good story of an innocent countryman who chanced to be in one of our cities on Sunday, and go to church. Arrived there, he waited outside for a moment, when to his profound surprise, the organ struck up, from which he concluded that some sort of 'shake down' was about to commence. Just at that moment a gentleman invited him to walk in and take a seat. "Not 'xactly, Mister; I aint used to no sich doings on Sunday; and besides, I don't dance." And he retired, shocked, exceedingly.

The following item is taken from the Memphis Christian Advocate, and is emphatically a good hit:—An invalid once sent for a physician, and after detaining him for some time with his pains, aches, &c., he sums up: "Now, Doctor, you have lumbagued me long enough with your good-for-nothing pills and worthless syrups; they don't touch the real difficulty. I wish you to strike the cause of my ailments, if it is in your power to reach it." "It shall be done," said the Doctor, at the same time lifting his cane and demolishing a decanter of gin that stood on the side-board.

The Cultivation of Annuals.

(From Beck's Book of Flowers)

The plants generally known as Annuals, are raised from the seed, perfect their flowers, mature their seed the same season, and then perish. There are some flowers, however, cultivated as Annuals, that are such only in a northern climate, being in their own more congenial region perennials, or biennials.—Among them are the Verbena, Chrysos, or E-schscholzia, as it was formerly called, Commenios, Mirabilis, and many others. This class of Annuals may be kept through the winter in green-houses or in any light cellars. Annuals are most appropriate for those who are changing their abode from year to year, as from these alone a fine display may be kept up the whole season, with the exception of the vernal months, and this deficiency may be supplied by having a choice collection of perennials, grown in pots, which can be plunged in the ground, and thus removed at any time when it is necessary to change the residence.

No collection of plants can be perfect without an abundance of Annuals, as they can be disposed of such a way as to succeed the perennials, and keep up a continuous bloom in all parts of the garden through the season. Annuals may be divided as follows:—hardy, half-hardy, and tender. Hardy Annuals are such as may be sown in autumn or very early in the spring, as all the Larkspurs, Chrysos, Clackea, Asters, Candytuft, &c. Half hardy are those which will not bear a hard frost, and therefore not proper to plant in the open ground before the middle or last of May, as the Balsam Cockcomb, Marigold, &c. Tender Annuals can hardly be brought to perfection without starting them in artificial heat, in a hot-bed or otherwise, and are very sensitive of cold, as the Cypress vine, Thumbergia, Ice Plant, Sensitive Plants, &c. Many of these, in a very warm season, will succeed tolerably well if planted about the 1st of June; but to have them in perfection they should be raised in a hot-bed, in pots, and turned out in the ground the middle of June.

Before sowing Annuals, the soil in which they are to be grown should be made light and rich, and very finely pulverized, as many of the seeds are very small, and require every advantage and care to get them up. The small seed must receive but little covering, and of the finest earth. In sowing these, my practice is to sow them in patches six or eight inches square. The soil having been well prepared, I settle the ground well with the foot or a small piece of board, so as to make an even, somewhat firm, surface. Then take some very fine soil and sift or strew over them, covering the seed not more than one eighth of an inch deep, after which press the soil again with the board gently. It is now of great importance that the seeds, as they vegetate, should be protected from the scorching sun; an evergreen bough is as good as anything to shade them. The soil must not be permitted to get dry until the young plants have acquired some strength; after which they may be left to take their chance from the effects of sun or dryness. When the plants are of a proper size, and the weather suitable, they may be taken up with a transplanting-trowel, and set where wanted. A small patch of this description will afford plants enough for any common garden. In removing them a number of them may be taken up together without disturbing the roots; but when the plants have become established, all may be cut off except the strongest ones. As a general rule, a single plant gives better satisfaction than when a number are grown together, except when planted in masses, or where there is to be a group. The beauty of many Annuals is completely destroyed by huddling them together. Give every plant according to its habits room. A single plant, well trained, may be made very beautiful; while a number of the same species, grown together without sufficient room, would be worthless.

Larkspur seed should, as many others, be sown where they are to remain. A bed of Double Rocket Larkspur, well managed, is almost equal to a bed of Hyacinths, when in bloom. This succeeds best when sown late in autumn or very early in the spring. The seed may be sown in drills, eight or ten inches apart, in beds, and plants well thinned out. Larkspur, and many other hardy annual seeds, if sown late in autumn, and lie dormant all winter, will give much stronger plants than the same kinds of seed sown very early in the spring, notwithstanding those sown in the spring may appear above ground as soon as those sown in autumn. The reason probably is, that the autumnal sown seeds are so prepared, by the action of the frost, that they start with greater vigor and consequently are more robust than the spring sown seeds.

Some seeds are difficult to germinate. Cypress vine is an example. This requires scalding, to facilitate its germination; or if the hull is carefully taken off with a pen-knife, so as not to injure the germ, the object is effected, and it will immediately vegetate. The seeds of Gomphena globosa (Globe Amaranth), incased in a thick coating of woolly substance, which greatly retards vegetation. This, with the hull, if taken off, causes the germ to push immediately, or if the seed is soaked in milk twenty-four hours, it will soon start; but, if planted with the coating on, or without soaking, very few will appear above ground.

As a general rule, the depth of planting flower seeds is to be governed by the size. For example, the Sweet Pea and Lupine may be planted so inch deep, and so in proportion. Annuals have a pleasing effect when planted in masses, particularly when the pleasure-ground is extensive. For this purpose the Verbena, of various colors, Portulacca, Nemophila, Chrysos, Phlox, Drummondia, Coreopsis Drummondia, Candytuft, and many other dwarf plants, are desirable. Beds of any of these, or others of similar habit, in a well managed grass-lawn, are very ornamental. The beds should be either round, oval, starry, but never square diamond-shaped, or triangular. Masses of Annuals may be so arranged as to make a grand display in the common flower-garden. We have seen the walks of an extensive flower-garden deeply edged with a wide border of crimson and scarlet Portulacca; and, throughout the whole garden, all the annuals, and other plants, in fact, were planted in masses. We have never seen a better managed garden than this one. It contained about an acre of ground. Not more than twenty or thirty kinds of annuals were cultivated in the garden, and of this class of plants no more than one half of the ground was filled. They consisted of every variety of Double Balsams, German Aster, Drummond Phlox, Coreopsis, Amaranth, Verbena, Portulacca, Double China Pinks, Petunias, Mignonne, Cockscombs, Gilliflowers, &c.

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