

the season. They will find, however, that the operation can be safely performed if they will take up the plants and puddle the roots—that is, dip them in mud made of about the consistency of thin mortar. The puddle-hole should be made ready before the plants are lifted, and the roots should be dipped in the mud before the sun or air can have any effect upon them. After the roots are coated with earth, they may be carried to the place where they are to be planted. Shrubs that have been heeled in until the leaves have started may be safely removed by using the puddle.—*Hearth and Home.*

THE EFFECT OF CHARCOAL ON FLOWERS.—A horticulturist in England, purchased a rose bush full of promising buds—the flowers, however, were of a faded hue. He covered the earth in the pot about an inch thick with pulverized charcoal, and was surprised, some days afterward, to find the blooms of a fine lively rose color. He repeated the experiment another season with the same result. He then tried the powdered charcoal upon petunias, and found that both the white and violet coloured flowers were equally sensitive to its action. It always gave great vigour to the red or violet colours of the flowers, and the white petunias became veined with red or violet tints; the violets became covered with irregular spots of a bluish or almost black tint. Many persons who admired them thought they were choice new varieties from the seed. Yellow flowers appear to be insensible to the influence of charcoal.

Our Country.

THE CLIMATE OF CANADA.

Very incorrect ideas prevail abroad as to the climate of this country. Our winters are supposed to be arctic in their duration and severity; and our summers, in like manner, arctic in their brevity and coolness. The statement is current that we have frost every month in the year, and “the rigours of a Canadian climate,” have become a proverb. Not only in Great Britain and on the European continent, do these misconceptions prevail, but even our American neighbours cherish them to some extent. They confound Canada with Labrador, and the Canadians with Esquimaux. A few years since, an intelligent Boston lady enquired of a visitor, if the people of Canada did not usually travel in the winter season in sledges drawn by dogs. This was a glaring case of ignorance, to be sure, but, in a less degree, similar ignorance exists in many quarters. We are thought to inhabit an inclement region, hardly worthy of being styled “home.” But the truth is that ours is a singularly pleasant and fruitful land. For natural scenery, varied resources, and ability to sustain a teeming population, we shall search far and wide ere we find a country to surpass the Dominion of Canada. Our climate has been severely criticised, and its extremes of heat and cold have been much complained of, but the healthfulness of this land

is established beyond controversy, and our climatic vicissitudes, though sometimes a source of inconvenience, are by no means unwholesome. No where on earth do the seasons of the year move on in lovelier, grander procession. In spring, we have a quick awakening of vegetable life, and nature puts on her best attire, promptly as a bride on her wedding-morn. Our summer is short, but gorgeous with splendour, and bedecked with flowers that can hardly be surpassed; we have oppressive heat at times, and occasionally drought, but how do our summer showers refresh the face of all things, how welcome is the rain, and how green and beautiful are the fields, the gardens, and the woods, when it falls. In autumn, we have the waving fields of grain and tasselled corn; our orchards display apples of gold in baskets of silvery verdure, and we can reckon even the grape among our fruits; our forests present a richly-tinted and many-coloured foliage; we have mid-October days in which the weather is superb; our Indian summer is a splendid valedictory to the season of growth and harvest; a bright and beautiful hectic flush sits upon the face of universal nature as death draws on and we glide imperceptibly into winter. This, though confessedly severe, is exhilarating, hardening animal as well as vegetable fibre, while it has its ameliorations and joys in the fire-side warmth that tempers into geniality the clear, frosty air; we have also the merry jungle and fleet gliding of the sleigh, and the skater's healthful sport, together with almost entire exemption from damp and mud, two most disagreeable accompaniments of winter in milder climes. The characteristics of this country are only beginning to be known abroad, as its resources are only beginning to be developed at home. It offers inducements rarely surpassed, to industrious, energetic, prudent settlers. Let it only be thickly settled with a population worthy of it, and it will take no mean rank among the countries of the earth. Sunnier climes there may be, but a fitter habitation for a manly, vigorous race—a finer field for displaying the energy, intelligence, and virtues of Anglo-Saxons, we may safely challenge the wide world to produce.

For the information of persons at a distance, it may not be amiss to give a short descriptive account of the months as they take their annual journey through the year in the Province of Ontario, and the Dominion of Canada.

January, in this climate, is a severely cold month. About New Year's Day we are accustomed to look for pretty sharp weather, which continues without much abatement all through the month, except when we have the “January thaw,” an old fashioned institution, which, like “Indian Summer,” and many others of the same class, has of late years been going rather out of vogue.

Whatever modifications our climate may undergo in other respects, the phrase “Canadian winter” will, no doubt, always denote a period of intense cold. Yet we question if the cold be so excessive, long-continued and trying as persons