

unexpected, its growth being concealed by more aspiring neighbors, still it asserts itself, as modest merit does at times, by hanging out a dainty spray of buds and perfected blossoms; there is a regal blossom that two days ago was a tiny, twisted, convoluted bud, that did not act as if it meant to show itself for a fortnight. I have in mind such a garden now, in which York and Lancaster roses stood side by side as the rival factions never did in old England; where Damask roses sent a shower of perfumed petals over a carpet of "Creeping Charlie" and stone crop; where a purple Morning Glory twisted itself round a convenient Hollyhock and dangled its bells from its very top. It was a garden of delight, of unlimited bouquets, of happy luxuriance and never ending variety.

But though not all homes can be beautified with so lovely and luxuriant a garden, there are none which cannot afford a few flowers, and to these the hardy perennials will prove more desirable than an attempt at the bedding out system, in which plants must be judiciously arranged with reference to height and color to be effective. Then, too, bedding plants require an outlay of time, trouble and expense which perennials do not.

There are very few farm houses about which there is not some unsightly view which might be hidden by judicious planting of shrubbery. There are very many ornamental shrubs which may be purchased for the purpose at a nurseryman's if one has means, but our common lilacs and snowballs will answer every purpose. Against these, as a background, may be arranged perennial plants in a manner which will be very effective. Hollyhocks, the double varieties being best, herbaceous Phloxes and the perennial Larkspurs, which often attain a height of four feet, look well against a background of verdure. The old fashioned Tiger Lilies and Crown Imperials also deserve a place. Where more space can be given and some attention paid to their growth, greater things may be attempted.

At this season of the year roots of perennials may be set out with good hope of surviving the winter and making free growth in the spring. One merit, and it is no slight one, of this class of plants consists in the fact that they are always on hand. Once established they go on increasing and growing better every year with no care except to see that weeds do not choke their growth, and to supply them with a little fine manure. Among the most deserving of such flowers we may name, in addition to those already mentioned, Pentstemon, a tall stately plant, whose tubular flowers of scarlet, blue and white grow in panicles; Poppies, whose orange and scarlet blossoms, though not very enduring, are very showy and fine among shrubbery; Pæonies, the deep, blood-red variety being especially beautiful against a green background; Columbines, with horns of honey; the Fox-glove, with her purple hood; Sweet William, which is now so much improved that it is hardly the same flower, with its splendid trusses of velvety bloom; Pyrethrums, which are as desirable as fine Asters; Sweet Rocket and wall flowers. Then, too, we have Pinks, both Japan and Chinese, which are perfectly hardy and are never done blooming; Pansies and Daisies; all varieties of hardy Lilies and Roses, which make the garden a bower of beauty in June; the Flowering Almond, "April's gift to April's bees;" indeed, the difficulty is not in the variety, but in making a choice