

penetrated, when she called my trembling self in. Again, Lawrence, you were avenged for all I had made you suffer, as I stammered forth a declaration that not only were you entirely guiltless of having insulted me in any manner, but that, I know not how it came out, you were anything but an object of dislike to me. I found some consolation for my own overwhelming mortification in the knowledge of the pang I inflicted at the same time on my luckless admirer whose officiousness had rendered the explanation necessary.

"This hard task over, Mrs. Merton brought me back to my room, and insisted on my lying down, as all danger of a duel between yourself and Captain Graham was now over. But I could not rest. I still feared some rashness on your part, some treachery on his, and I resolved to have an explanation with yourself in the morning before you should leave, a coldly polite one of course, containing a final farewell, something very different to this; so that anything like mischief should be entirely precluded. Worn out with watching, I fell into a doze on the sofa, a little before day-break.

"Awoke by the sound of a door closing, I sprang to the window, and saw you leaving the house. Oh, in that moment, Lawrence, I first realized how dear you were to me, and, trembling with anxiety, I hurried in the direction of your room, the door of which was open, to gather, if possible, some indication of where or for what you had gone so early. This letter (my darling pressed it to her lips as she spoke) was lying on the table. It was addressed to me, and, breaking the seal, I read it. Need I say its generous devotion touched me even to the inmost core of my wayward heart; need I tell you I sobbed and cried over it, fearing you had left me for ever. Ah, my selfish pride was utterly and completely subdued! Suddenly I heard the front gate unclose, and looking out, saw you enter the grounds. No time for delay, for hesitation now, and with a beating heart I hastened down the side staircase. A few moments of irresolution, a last short, sharp struggle with myself, as I saw you hastening away, and the end is told."

It was my turn now, and at the risk of being tedious, I went over all that I had previously said in my letter, and she listened in blushing, quiet happiness. After a long, blissful hour together, my promised wife left me to dress for breakfast, and I, still almost unable to believe in my unhopied for happiness, sat on, listening in a sort of dream-like rapture to the pleasant sounds of morning.

A more prosaic turn was given to my thoughts after a time by seeing Captain Graham coming leisurely down the walk. He certainly did not look so miserable as I expected, but the latent fierceness with which he occasionally decapitated some harmless flower that grew within reach of his tiny cane proved his thoughts were not of a very pleasant character. Scarcely decided how to meet him, I silently waited his approach, but as soon as he saw me, he languidly said:

"Aw! Good morning, Saville. I'm deuced glad there's no necessity for that little affair between us coming off. 'Tis really as unpleasant to shoot at a fellow as to be shot at. Must say I was never in my life so taken aback, indeed, I may say stunned, as when Geraldine, hem! Miss Otway, I should say, informed me in one breath that I was an officious noodle, whom she hated as much as she liked yourself. You are a deuced sly fellow, Saville! Thought all along you were in love with that pretty little Merton girl."

"So I might have been at one time, only her affections were otherwise engaged," I answered, anxious to give my blue eyed friend a "lift."

"Really! To that big shouldered Chester, I suppose. Some women are so fond of giants. Yet no, she'd often cut him confoundedly short when he'd go up to talk to her. Perhaps it is that clever Canadian party who came from town last week, and wrote smart verses in French about her eyes and golden tresses. Wonder if he meant that Japanese switch, as the ladies call it, which she coils round her head?"

"The fact is, Captain Graham, Miss Merton never made me her confidant, but I have a considerable amount of sharpness, hem! where I am not concerned myself," I suddenly added, remembering my own late inveterate blindness in a case somewhat analogous, "and I have only to say that you are no coxcomb."

The significant emphasis, and significant look I favoured my companion with here must have been very eloquent indeed, for all at once opening his sleepy, hazel eyes very wide, his cheek slightly flushing at the same time, he said:

"You don't mean to say that I'm the favoured man?"

I smiled, but maintained a prudent silence. "Well, I never dreamed of such a thing. I was so taken up with that shrewish, hem! with Miss Otway, I mean. But, say, hadn't you better try to look a little more like a man going to breakfast, and a little less like Speke, Livingston, or any of those other great travellers?"

Thanking him for the really serviceable hint, for my actual equipment was certainly not a proper breakfast costume where ladies

were expected to be present, my beard, owing to mental agitation, having remained unshorn, whilst my portmanteau lay prostrate on the ground a few paces from me, I left him, inwardly hoping that the saying about hearts being easily caught at a rebound, might hold good in his case and that of my fair ally.

Later it really did, and Fanny Merton, long since Mrs. Captain Graham, is still an intimate friend of Geraldine Saville, my well-loved wife.

In justice to the latter I must say before closing this short episode of my life, that Miss Otway showed me more temper and waywardness during the short period I knew her, than Mrs. Saville has done in the course of the sixteen years that have elapsed since we joined our destinies together, a step, I may safely aver, neither of us have ever once regretted.

[THE END.]

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

SEEDS AND SOWING.

Moisture, air and a proper degree of temperature are essential to the germination of seeds. The first act of the seed after being placed in the ground, is to absorb water; the changes which accompany germination cannot take place without it. There must be a certain amount of moisture, but not too much, as this would exclude an equally important agent—air, without the pressure of which germination cannot take place. The temperature varies with the kind of seed. Many garden seeds will germinate at ten degrees above the freezing point, while others require still ten degrees higher, before they start at all. We do not, however, with tender plants, run the risk of the decay of the seeds by sowing them until the temperature of the ground becomes considerably higher than the lowest point at which they will germinate. Peas may be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground, but squashes and melons require that the soil be above sixty degrees. These are what may be considered the conditions necessary to the germination of the seed—the chemical conditions. The act of germination—the bursting of the seed-coat and the liberation of the embryo plant—is accomplished by these, but this embryo plant has then to encounter mechanical obstacles before it can become fairly established and begin to sustain itself. It should be recollected that the whole growth of the plant from the time it bursts the seed-coat until its first leaves appear above the surface, is from the nourishment contained within the seed itself. The young plant has to push in two directions, its root end is struggling to get downward while the opposite end is seeking the light. It is evident that not only the depth at which the seed is placed, but the character of the soil above it will have great influence upon the young plant. One great cause of failure with seeds is too deep planting. Small seeds placed deep may germinate, but the young plant will be unable to reach the surface, the amount of nutriment in so small a seed not supplying sufficient material to allow the plant to grow large enough to reach so great a distance. The young plant perishes, and the seedsmen is blamed for furnishing poor seeds. The other extreme, sowing too shallow, may occur, but we think seldom, the chief trouble here is that the young plant being so near the surface is liable to become too dry, before the roots are ready to take up moisture. The character of the soil above the seeds is an important point. It will readily be understood that a germinating plant can make much easier progress through a light soil, than through a heavy one, and it happens with some soils that the surface becomes so baked after a rain that it is quite impossible for the seed to overcome the mechanical difficulty. Our market gardeners, in order to be sure of a stand with seeds the young plants of which are feeble, sow many times more than is necessary, in order that the united efforts, so to speak, of a multitude of young plants may be able to throw off the covering. With delicate seed sown in a seed bed, the covering should be of a light nature. The soil should be largely of leaf mould. This being light, may allow the seeds to remain too dry, and to prevent this it is to be packed down by pressure with a board, or patting with a spade after sowing. This packing may seem to be contrary to the statement that the covering should be light, but a soil consisting largely of decayed leaves or decayed spent hops, is of an elastic character, and will not, like a heavy soil, pack so closely as to present an obstacle to the younger plants. Flower seeds are often very fine and need more care in regard to the character of the soil and its depth than coarser seeds. Very fine seeds need but a mere sifting of earth over them or no covering at all. With Lobelias and such minute seeds, we have had the best success by strewing them over the level surface of the earth in a pot, and then covering the pot with a pane of glass. The object of the glass is to keep the surface from becoming dry. In gardens where the soil dries quickly, it is well to shade the spot where fine seeds are sown. According to our experience the seed sold by our dealers is generally good, and we believe that a large majority of the complaints of poor seed arises from burying

the seeds too deeply and covering them with too heavy a soil.

THE FIELD CULTURE OF SAGE.

The variety of sage sought after by those who grow it on a large scale, is that known as the "broad leaf." An old grower will rarely purchase seed if the purity and freshness of it cannot be guaranteed from a personal knowledge of the raiser.

In raising sage, it should be borne in mind that the most valuable portion of the crop is leaves; the poorer the land and the less the manure, the greater the proportion of leaves to the stems. That the interests of both buyer and seller may be equally consulted, rather light soil is selected, which is in good condition, and four cords of some compost equal in strength to stable measure, and mechanically fine, is applied to the acre. A heavier dressing would produce a larger crop, but then a larger proportion of this would be stems, for the ranker the crop the coarser the stems. The seed may be planted as late as June, but the quality of the crop is also affected by the length of time it grows; that planted early, and therefore growing the entire season, makes more and heavier wood, while that planted later makes proportionately more leaves, and therefore a better article. The ground must be very thoroughly worked, two plowings and harrowings are none too many, and then raked level and fine, as for a root crop; the seed is planted in rows from 14 to 18 inches apart, and from three quarters to an inch deep. About five pounds of seed are used for an acre. The seed comes slowly; if the season is favourable the plants will begin to show themselves in two weeks; but if the surface bakes the best seed may fail to push through, for the seed itself comes up with the leaves, and when the ground bakes hard it is apt to be broken off, and that is the end of the plant. Keep the crop clear of weeds, which will require considerable care in the earlier stages of growth, but later in the season it will so nearly cover the ground as to shade it, and thus keep it comparatively clean. In the early fall cut the crop with a large knife or a smooth-edged sickle. Cure it by spreading in the shade in some airy building, on racks or laths, eight or ten inches apart, the laths being a couple of inches apart in the racks. These racks which are excellent for drying all kinds of herbs, are made by using 1½ inch boards as upright which are from four to six inches wide, in these cut notches 1½ inches wide and two or three deep, with a downward slant, securing them firmly to the floor below and the beams above, having them in rows a little slant four feet apart, and five or six feet apart in the row. Into the notches slide slips of an inch or inch-and-a-quarter stuff, and lay on these laths at distances above given. When the season is closed all can be readily removed and stored for future use. By using artificial heat the sage may be dried in two or three days, but this does not make so good an article as that which dries in the course of two or three weeks; the cooler the weather the handsomer the appearance of the crop when dried. Sage is a very reliable crop when once up, it being not much affected by drouth as root crops. After a rain it recovers from its check, and starts a fresh growth immediately.

HOW MUCH MANURE TO A COW.

Carefully conducted experiments show that a cow of the average size will void about sixty pounds of manure in a day, measuring about 1½ cubic feet, which is more than three cords, weighing over ten tons for a year. It is the opinion of many good cultivators that three loads of peat or muck mixed with one load of cow dung, make a compost quite as effective for top-dressing meadows as the cow dung itself. If this were done we should have twelve cords of good compost from the solid excrements of one cow. It is further estimated that the liquid manure is quite as valuable as the solid. If this were carefully saved by peat absorbents kept under the stable, or in it, it would double the pile, or be equal to twenty four cords of good compost. If this were spread upon two acres of rundown meadow, producing a ton of hay or less per acre, it would increase the crop probably to three tons to the acre the first year, and the effects of it would be seen in increased crops for five years longer. In these two acres it would make all the difference between profitable farming for five years. This compost if sold would bring a high price. This shows what may be done under favorable circumstances to increase the home supply of fertilizers. We have found that nothing pays better than labor applied to the compost heap.



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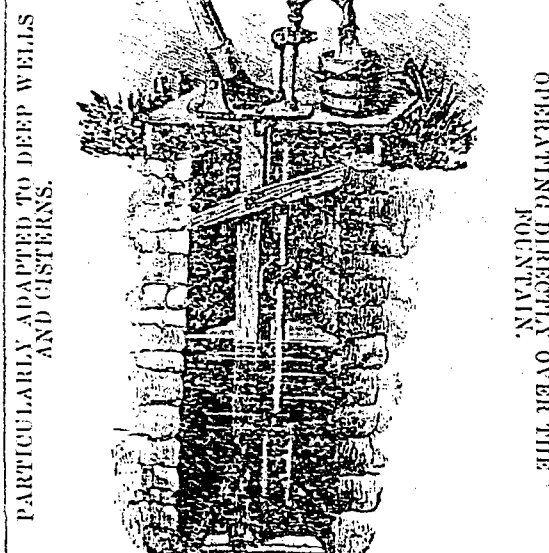
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TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, will be received at the office of the Department, Ottawa, until Monday the 30th day of May, up to six o'clock, P.M., for certain alterations, additions, &c., to the Royal Insurance Building, intended for the new Custom House, at the city of Montreal.

Plans and Specifications can be seen at the office of M. Laurent, architect, at Montreal, on and after the 20th instant.

The names of two responsible persons willing to become security for the due fulfilment of the contract, to be submitted with each Tender.

Tenders to be endorsed "Tender, for Alterations, &c., Custom House, Montreal."

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By order,
F. BRAUN,
Secretary.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
Ottawa, 17th May 1870. 29b