

until the following spring. When a very early supply is required, the bed must be covered in November with stable manure, which may be removed very early in spring, and straw or some light covering substituted for it, which must be taken off gradually as the weather grows warmer.

FIRST SPRING FLOWERS

The **SNOW DROP** is the earliest of all spring flowers, not even waiting until the snow has disappeared before it shows its pure white blossoms. It is not so common in this country as it is in England and other parts of Europe, perhaps because our severe winters are rather trying to it. There are only two varieties of this flower, the single and the double. They make a very pretty appearance when planted together in groups. The bulbs should be set in good soil, about an inch and a half deep. There is a flower very similar to this called the **Great Snow drop**; it is much larger both in bulb and flower, and should be planted four or five inches deep. The roots should be taken up every third year, when the leaves are decayed, and kept in a dry place, the same as any other bulbs, until August, and then replanted.

THE VIOLET.—This beautiful little flower should have a place in every garden. It is said by some to be an emblem of faithfulness, though we often see it pictured as an emblem of modesty; in either case it is very charming. It is one of the first flowers in field and wood that greet us in the early spring, and on this account, we prize it all the more. Most of the wild varieties are very fragrant and well worth transplanting to the garden. Many persons have an idea that the double varieties are scentless. This is a great mistake, as some of the double ones both white and blue, yield the sweetest perfume. There is a large variety of the violet, termed by florists "**Pedate Violet**," which may be found in the woods early in the spring. They are sometimes very handsome, though generally of a very light colour. Violets should be planted in a shady, sheltered place, and will bloom much earlier in spring if covered through the winter.

THE DAISY is a native of England and Scotland, and grows wild in great abundance in those countries, blooming nearly all the season, as Montgomery has beautifully described:—

"It smiles upon the lap of May,
To sultry August spreads its charms,
Lights pale October on his way,
And twines December's arms."

Even in our cold Canada, we have plucked the daisy ere the snow has taken its departure. It thrives best in some sheltered spot, and should be covered in the winter. There are several varieties of the cultivated sorts; some are pure white double,

while others are beautifully variegated. They can be propagated by dividing the roots, or from seed. The seed may be sown in a sheltered border in the garden, but is safest in the green-house or hot-bed. Daisies may be planted in clumps, or as borders to other beds, with very pretty effect. Any trouble and pains that are taken in the cultivation of this flower, and very little are required, will be fully repaid, for, while

"The rose has but a summer reign,
The daisy never dies."

THE CROCUS is a hardy bulbous-rooted plant, and a native of Holland. There are many varieties, some of them very gay, and when planted together in a border, they make a magnificent display. The **Crocus** blooms in April, and the bulbs should be planted in the previous September or October, about an inch and a half deep. When the blossoms and leaves have decayed, the bulbs may either be taken up and placed in some cool and dry place until autumn, or may remain in the ground several seasons without being removed.

THE HYACINTH is one of the finest spring flowers. It is largely cultivated in Holland, and all parts of the world are supplied with bulbs from that country. There are said to be over one thousand varieties of this flower. They are of almost every shade both double and single. The single varieties are very beautiful, though the double ones are considered much more handsome. Hyacinths appear very well distributed in different places about the borders, but will show to better advantage if planted in a bed. The soil should be well prepared by mixing manure with the garden earth. If the soil is found to be of too heavy a nature, it may be improved by adding a little sand, and thoroughly mixing all together. The places for the bulbs should then be marked out about eight inches apart. In planting care should be taken to have the colours well arranged. The bulbs should be covered four inches deep with fine sandy soil. October is the best time to plant. The bed should be covered with some light substance through the winter. After the blooms are dead, and the leaves are withered, the bulbs should be taken up and laid on a bed of light earth with the leaves down, and the roots covered with earth. In about two weeks they will be ripened, and may be taken up and cleared from the earth and roots, and wrapped in papers and kept in a dry place for future use. When the flowers have attained their height, it will be necessary to tie them to sticks or some wire supports, as their own weight or the wind would otherwise break them. Grown in glasses or pots, the hyacinth is a beautiful indoor flower, and relieves the desolateness of winter with its cheerful bloom, while it fills the house with a delicious fragrance.

THE TULIP is a hardy flower, and is cultivated