

sed by competent judges on this point. Captain Gunter's Shorthorn cow, which won the first prize at the Royal at Leeds last year, is also disqualified, from the same cause. The splendid Bull *Statesman*, which we saw at the Royal Irish Show at Cork in 1860, has proved himself impotent as a stock-getter from the stimulating system to which he has been subjected. It is true these are but isolated instances, but it will be well for short horn men to be alive to them, or the fair fame of that distinguished breed will, by degrees, become tarnished. On this side of the Atlantic, Durham cows especially, may be occasionally seen at exhibitions in much too high a condition for safe breeding purposes. This is owing more to the absurd manner in which these animals have been treated, than to any innate defects of their own. "It is," remarks the *Mark Lane Express*, "the suicidal forcing system, which we have so long protested against, that is destroying the fair fame of the Shorthorns. The real value of a brood mare or a brood cow centres in her ability to breed, and the Royal Agricultural Society will yet have to face this abuse with more determination."

## Horticultural.

### Flower Beds and Bedding Plants.

*Read before the Hamilton Horticultural Club by Mr. Geo. Laing, Gardener, of that City.*

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—The winter that is now, we trust, nearly past, although long, has been favourable in many respects, particularly so, for horticultural in-door operations, the keeping of plants, &c. Such being the case it is to be hoped that all will be well supplied with plenty of good things for the coming season, so that the pleasure grounds, gardens, and flower beds, will be better and look gay than they ever yet have done. Adverse as the times have been of late, Horticulture has continued to advance. This is encouraging and ought to stimulate all to push onwards in the good work—there is still much to do.

In my paper on flower beds and bedding plants last year, I noticed in a general way most of the kinds in use, their culture and management, and as I have been called on for another paper this year, on the same subject, it is not necessary for me now to touch much on any of the particulars I then noticed. In looking over the report of that paper in the *Canadian Agriculturist* of 1st of May last, I find that no notice was there taken of the bulbous flowering plants, a class that is very full of interest and very worthy of cultivation. Mr. Bruce in his paper to this club last month, so fully described this class, their nature, habits and culture, as to render any thing from me here unnecessary, further than to remark that

they are very requisite in all places for flowering. In passing over the bulbs the mone and Ranunculus have occurred to my mind. worthy things, they are very much appreciated in the Old Country for their beauty and flowering, but here they seem to be little valued. I believe this in some measure may be attributed to a fear of our long and hard winters, and failures of a few that have tried them. I am inclined to think they will do well if properly planted in fall in a good sandy loam, before the frost in, covering the beds over with a good light stable manure or tree leaves, or a mixture of both, laying boards on the top to turn the rains, otherwise early in the spring put them in small pots, start them either in a fire pit with a slight heat, when a little frost and weather permitting plant them out in a suitable situation.

This season I hope that a greater effort be made with the shrubby *Calceolarias* bedding plant. It appears to me strange, that they do so very well in the green houses that they won't do outside; it is said that our climate is too hot for them, if so put them in a shade. There are now many excellent new varieties, much praised in England for their qualities, their hardiness, profusion of flowers, and rich and continued flowering habits, that I think ought to encourage their culture in this country. In the ribbon border, which I shall here introduce, the *Calceolarias* are almost indispensable.

Ribbon borders, pannelled beds and chains, &c.—strange things to be made of plants, but such is the case, and very true they are. In the Old Country for some time this has been the leading feature in flower beds over the length and breadth of the land, and as it may appear it is no less true, and a commendation. Much has been said and written of it where it has been and is practised, and greatly has it been praised, but for all that, all, it is nothing more or less than a management of colours, foliage shades, and a proportionate growing plants. Simply may appear it requires both taste and judgment to execute it properly. The principle is, and will answer well in any place, whether large or small, no doubt the more extensive the grounds and gardens are the more will be the effects. In this as in all other things of planting, the effects depend much on the nature and formation of the grounds, and are not now under consideration. My present aim is, simply to convey a few ideas that may be beneficial to those of our energetic gardeners and amateurs who have made up their minds to become ribbon men for this year.

First then, each and all individually to himself before he begins, in what shall I plant these grounds, gardens, and have the most pleasing and expressive and to produce the best and most a