

section give them a peculiar charm—rich, dark and velvety colors predominate ; yellows are absent, and no two in a mixture are alike. Their stems are erect and stiff, and they are admirably adapted for cutting. They like a soil that is not liable to dry out, or the quality of the blooms suffers. They should be planted in groups of six or eight, and each year the quantity of bloom will be about doubled from each clump.—Rept. Mass. Hort. Soc.

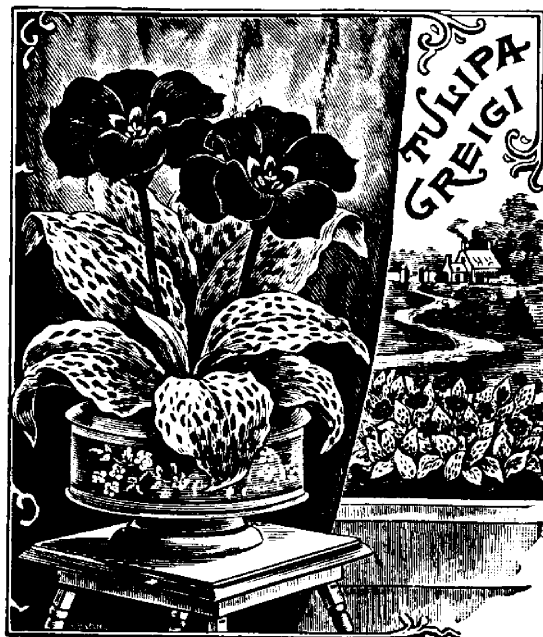


FIG. 924.

Hollyhocks and Pansies.—An excellent covering for the hollyhock is a nail keg, with both ends knocked out. Place one over each plant, and fill in about it with leaves. Then put something over the top, to keep out the rain. When snow comes, bank up well about the keg. Plants come through the winter, when protected in this way, in splendid condition, and give early and fine flowers. Unprotected, half the hollyhock plants die off in spring, at the north. A close, heavy covering is almost sure death to a pansy. The ideal covering for pansies is leaves scattered loosely among the plants, with large branches of evergreens laid over them. These keep the leaves in place.—Am. Agriculturist.

Wild Flower Trade.—The trade in cut wild flowers is beginning to be an important business in the large cities. Wild ferns, especially those with leathery leaves, are an especial feature. The Christmas fern, *Aspidium acrostichoides*, is largely drawn on. It is estimated that five millions of fronds of this fern were sold in Philadelphia last year.—Meehans' Monthly for December.