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## THE USE OF FLOWERS.

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God might have bade the earth bring forth  
 Enough for great and small,  
 The oak tree and the cedar tree,  
 Without a flower at all.  
 He might have made enough, enough  
 For every want of ours,  
 For luxury, medicine, and toil—  
 And yet have made no flowers.  
 The ore within the mountain mine  
 Requireth none to grow,  
 Nor doth it need the lotus flower  
 To make the river flow.  
 The clouds might give abundant rain,  
 The nightly dews might fall,  
 And the herb that keepeth life in man,  
 Might yet have drank them all.  
 Then wherefore, wherefore were they made,  
 All dyed with rainbow light—  
 All fashioned with supremest grace,  
 Upspringing day and night;  
 Springing in valleys green and low,  
 And on the mountains high,  
 And in the silent wilderness,  
 Where no man passeth by?  
 Our outward life requires them not,  
 Then wherefore had they birth?  
 To minister delight to man,  
 To beautify the earth;  
 To whisper hope, to comfort man,  
 Whene'er his faith is dim;  
 For whoso careth for the flowers  
 Will care much more for him.

## PROPAGATION OF FRUIT TREES BY BUDDING.

The proper season for budding fruit trees in this country is from the first of July to the middle of September; the different trees coming into season as follows; Plums, Cherries, Apricots on Plums, Apricots, Pears, Apples, Quinces, Nectarines and Peaches. Trees of considerable size will require budding earlier than young seedling stocks. But the operation is always, and only, performed when the bark of the stock parts or separates freely from the wood, and when the buds of the current year's growth are somewhat plump, and the young wood is growing firm. Young stocks in the nursery, if thrifty, are usually planted out in the rows in the spring, and budded the same summer or autumn.

Before commencing you should provide yourself with a budding knife, Fig. 1, (about four and a half inches long,) having a rounded blade at one end, and an ivory handle terminating in a thin rounded edge called the *haft*, *a*, at the other.

In choosing your buds, select thrifty shoots that have nearly done growing, and prepare what is called a *stick of buds*, Fig. 2, by cutting off a few of the imperfect buds at the lower, and such as may be yet too soft at the upper ends, leaving only smooth well developed single buds; double buds being fruit-buds. Cut off the leaves, allowing about half an inch of the *foot-stalks* to remain for conveniently inserting the buds. Some strands of bass-matting about twelve or fourteen inches long, previously

soaked in water to render them soft and pliable, (or in the absence of these some soft woollen yarn,) must also be at hand for tying the buds.

Shield or T budding is the most approved mode in all countries. A new variety of this method now generally practised in this country we shall describe first as being the simplest and best mode for fruit trees.

*American shield budding.* Having your stick of buds ready, choose a smooth portion of the stock. When the latter is small, let it be near the ground, and, if equally convenient, select also the north side of the stock, as less exposed to the sun. Make an upright incision in the bark from an inch to an inch and a half long, and at the top of this make a cross cut, so that the whole shall form a T. From the stick of buds, your knife being very sharp, cut a thin, smooth slice of wood and bark containing a bud, Fig. 3, *a*. With the ivory haft of your budding knife, now raise the bark on each side of the incision just wide enough to admit easily the prepared bud. Taking hold of the footstalk of the leaf, insert the bud under the bark, pushing it gently down to the bottom of the incision. If the upper



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

portion of the bud projects above the horizontal part of the T, cut it smoothly off now, so that it may completely fit, *b*. A bandage of the soft matting is now tied pretty firmly over the whole wound, Fig. 4, commencing at the bottom, and leaving the bud, and the footstalk of the leaf only exposed to the light and air.

*Common shield-budding.* Practised in all gardens in Europe, differs from the foregoing only in one respect—the removal of the slice of wood contained in the bud. This is taken out with the point of the knife, holding the bud or shield by the leaf stalk, with one hand, inserting the knife under the wood at the lower extremity,



Fig.

and then raising and drawing out the wood by bending it upwards and downwards, with a slight jerk, until it is loosened from the bark; always taking care that a small portion of the wood remains behind to fill up the hollow at the base or heart of the bud. The bud thus prepared is inserted precisely as before described.

The American variety of shield budding is found greatly preferable to the European mode, at least for this climate. Many sorts of fruit trees, especially Plums and Cherries, nearly mature their growth, and require to be budded in the hottest part of our summer. In the old method, the bud having only a shield of bark with but a particle of wood in the heart of the bud, is much more liable to be destroyed by heat, or dryness, than when the slice of wood is left behind in the American way. Taking out this wood is always an operation requiring some dexterity and practice, as few buds grow when the eye, or heart wood is damaged. The American method, therefore, requires less skill, can be done earlier in the season with younger wood, is performed in much less time, and is uniformly more successful. It has been very fairly tested upon hundreds of thousand fruit trees, in our gardens, for the last twenty years, and, although practised English budders coming here, at first are greatly prejudiced against it, as being in direct opposition to one of the most essential features in the old mode, yet a fair trial has never failed to convince them of the superiority of the new.

*After treatment.* In two weeks after the operation you will



Fig. 1.