

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

I. VEGETABLE, FRUIT, AND FLOWER GARDEN.

I shall suppose that the garden has been laid out either at right angles or otherwise; that the paths and walks are made high and dry, and are well gravelled; that the ground has been drained, if such be necessary; that the soil has been thoroughly manured, especially for vegetables; and that it has been properly prepared by deep, or trench digging, all which operations the gallantry of the rougher sex of the household will have caused them to do, with much pleasure and delight, and for which they have received ample payment in one of your sweet smiles. And further, I shall take it for granted that our lady gardener is in possession of the necessary implements, such as a small spade, hoes, both draw and thrust, (or what in Britain are called the common Dutch hoes,) rakes, large and small, watering-pans, &c., and of a choice collection of new, perfect and genuine seeds. I then remark with Mrs. Loudon, that the seeds should be firmly imbedded in the soil, so that there may be "that degree of permanence and stability which is essential to enable nature to accommodate the plant to the situation in which it is placed;" next that they must be so covered, "as to exclude the light which impedes vegetation, and to preserve a sufficiency of moisture around them to encourage it," but they must not be buried so deeply "as either to deprive them of the beneficial influence of the air, or to throw any unnecessary impediments in the way of their ascending shoots." I shall speak of the useful before the agreeable, and recommend that you ought to have a constant succession of crops of vegetables, and never to let a plot of your ground, however small, lie unprofitable; taking care, however, not too crowd the plants too much together. In the knowledge of these truths, in fact consists one of the greatest points of successful vegetable culture. You probably know well enough the kind of seeds which ought to be sown early in spring. I may however enumerate some which, as our season is so very backward, may yet be sown, though the first crops are generally put in, in March or April.

Vegetables.—Onions may yet be attempted, spinage, all summer; cabbage, brocoli of various sorts, and cauliflower in beds, for late planting out; peas of different kinds, all summer, particu-

larly the *Scymeter* pea, if to be got; * beat various kinds, carrots, turnips, lettuce, radishes, melons, cucumbers, beets, potatoes, &c., now ought to be sown and planted; cauliflowers, brocoli, (of the latter, the purple and white amongst the best,) giving them more room for cabbages, as when planted too close, they are all to leaves and have no heart; potatoes, should be planted, and whatever vegetables require to be earthed up, should be sown or planted in rows. Steeping seeds for a few hours previous to sowing, in a solution of saltpetre, guano and water, or any ammoniacal water, cause them to germinate free y and speedily, and may be of some advantage in this late season.

Fruit.—No garden ought to be without gooseberries, currants, (black, red, and white,) raspberries and strawberries. The plants of these are not very expensive, and may yet be planted if you have none already set. Apples, peaches, cherries, plums, peaches, &c., all thrive well in Canada, and produce abundant crops. An assortment of these ought to be in every garden or orchard.

Flowers.—Are peculiarly the objects of Ladies' care, for which they are well adapted. They are pleasant and lovely to the eye, or grateful to the smell, or to both senses; among the most general favorites are roses (of many kinds,) carnations, the delicious sweet pea of various colors, stock-jellyflowers, wall-flowers, sweet-williams, violets, pansies or hearts ease, pinks, carnations, primroses, daisies, ranunculuses, anemones, auriculas, lupins various colored, kalfushias, lychnis, sunflowers, dahlias, calceolarias, the tulushias, Indian cress tulips, and many others which need not be particularly enumerated. These will fill up a pretty good sized flower-bed, the keeping which in neat order will be a pleasant and healthy occupation, in many a long morning or evening hour. Should it be practicable, I would strongly advise your having a tasteful, ornamental and nicely shaded summer seat or bower adjoining your flower-plot, in which climbing plants, such as honeysuckle, the shire and monthly roses, the passion flower, &c., ought to be kept properly trained.

* To prevent peas being eaten by mice, bury them for a day or so in train oil, which will retard their vegetation, and render them obnoxious to mice; mixing some barley awns or beards with the peas, is also a preventative.