

what plants will bear a smart frost. Some wild plants would make fine winter bloomers for a time; such for example as the Hepatica, which we have seen thrusting its purple flowers, without detriment, up through two inches of recently fallen snow in spring. Some of the early blooming cultivated bulbs, as the Siberian squill and snowdrop, would not be harmed by an occasional cold night. Experiments with different flowering plants, annuals, herbaceous perennials and bulbs, might give lists which would make a supply of winter bloom much easier of attainment with many.

### THE SHEEP BUSINESS.

The time to go into a business is when a good many persons are getting out of it. This applies especially to sheep keeping. I am not very old, but I can remember several ups and downs in this business; but the downs only last a short time, and everything gets lovely again very soon. The golden fleece becomes tarnished for a while, but it soon brightens again, and gets as bright and brilliant as ever. Just now sheep are down. Good store ewes are selling in the markets, and can be picked out of droves for \$2.50 to \$4 a head, which may be made to bring a lamb next spring worth more than the cost of the dam, and give a fleece that will pay for their keep, and so stand their owners next summer in just nothing at all. This is not bad for a time when a good many sheep owners are wild to get rid of their sheep, and go into something else not half so good. It is thus very clear that this is a good time to begin to keep a flock. This season of the year is the very best, because it will soon be the breeding time, and one can make suitable arrangements for the next year's lambs. Rolling and even hilly land is the most desirable surface, and limestone gravel that is dry and free from swamps or low wet places is the soil. Fuge pabula lœta! Vergile. Clear running water that is wholly free from marshy banks or borders, or well water, which is preferable, is indispensable, because wherever there are low wet places, there the much to be dreaded liver fluke and the lung worm are to be found, with lung disorders and foot rot; and these are more troublesome than all the other complaints of sheep put together. The great needs of sheep are dry footing, good grass, or other herbage, rather short and sweet than rich and luxuriant; pure water, pure air, and plenty of it, and shelters from rains or snows. (1) With these needed comforts, and close watching to avoid accidents and dogs, sheep will always belie the old Virgilian (2) adage that "they are an unhappy flock," and will pay their way better than any other farm stock. The second necessary is the master, and he who would keep sheep with pleasure and profit must be patient and persevering; careful, thoughtful and watchful; apt to learn and quick to apply what he learns, and endowed with good common sense and foresightedness. More sheep go to the bad because of a neglectful owner, or one whose temper is cross and who seorns little details, than for any other reason. The third necessary is to secure a good lot of sheep start with, and not too many at first. Above all things pure-bred ewes should be avoided. They are more exacting than the native grades; they cost several times as much, the fleece is rarely worth more than that of common sheep, and the lambs are worth no more than those of half-bred sheep. But pure-bred rams are indispensable. For market lambs, the black-faced breeds furnish the bestsires.—*Henry Stewart in Country Gentleman.*

(1) *Ad puteos aut alta greges ad stagna jubelo.* Vergil.

(2) Yes, but, if my memory serves me, Virgil only calls the flock "infelix" when it is living in the miserable country of the "Scythiæ gentes Maolique unda."

A. R. J. F.

### GERANIUMS AND PELARGONIUMS.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—If I mistake not, Daisy Eyebright (page 376) is somewhat muddled about these. In a botanical sense, the plants she refers to are not geraniums at all, but all are pelargoniums. Popularly, however, the horse-shoe, ivy-leaved, oak-leaved, rose-scented, nutmeg-scented, and many others not uncommon in cultivation, are called geraniums, and, I think, justly enough, seeing that *Pelargonium* is a genus of the geranium family. Anyhow, geranium as a popular name for a pelargonium is surely as consistent as lemonscented verbena for *Lippia citriodora*, or yellow day-lily for *Hemerocallis flava*; and certainly not nearly so far-fetched as Christmas Rose for a plant of the crowfoot family, or water violet for a member of the primrose family.

True geraniums, in a botanical sense, are mostly hardy, herbaceous, perennial plants—for instance, our common wild spotted cranesbill; sometimes biennial, as in the case of our wild herb Robert. Besides geraniums and pelargoniums, oxalises, balsams and nasturtiums (*Tropæolum*) among familiar garden plants, hold generic rank in the esteemed geranium family.

Your correspondent says: "They are divided into six species." Those she mentions are only sets of three species, namely, *Pelargonium zonale*, *P. peltatum*, and "scented-leaf," which may mean some one of twenty species of fragrant-leaved pelargoniums. If I mistake not, the "pelargoniums" she refers to what are popularly known as Lady Washington geraniums, (1) and if this is so, then she means the cultivated offspring of *Pelargonium grandiflorum*. And here I would call attention to the fact that the New Life, Black Douglas, l'Elegante, and General Grant geraniums she speaks of are as truly pelargoniums as are any Lady Washington pelargoniums in the country.

W. F.

Glen Cove, L. I.

### WHITE PLUME CELERY.

As this new variety has failed with some cultivators, we copy the following favorable report from J. Muir, in the London Garden, which seems to indicate that a moist, cool and shady climate may be best for it, as the green plant whitened late in autumn. It was treated like other celery, but not earthed up:

When planted out, just as they were about 6 inches high, they were quite green, and in August, when large plants, they were also quite green—so much so, indeed, that about that time I had great doubts respecting the American "White" Plume blanching; but in September the centre leaves and stems whitened, and by November the entire plant became perfectly white, and in every way agreed with the American representation of it. The stems are now as tender, and the flavor as good as it possibly could be in earthed-up celery of the ordinary type. The White Plume is, therefore, both novel and valuable. It is distinct from any other celery, and, in my opinion, a great acquisition, as the labor of making trenches for it and earthing it up is saved. These are two important points in its favor, and there is another which I must not forget to point out, viz., that it is never worm-eaten or destroyed by celery pests. Worm-eaten celery and rotten celery, too, are produced in the majority of instances through the earth being put up around the stems; but as this is unnecessary in the case of the White Plume, it is not

(1) Called here, "Royal George"

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