

not impose a heavy tax upon the pocket, and there are very few flowers, but what may be cultivated to as great perfection in the garden of the peasant as of the peer. It is a taste, too, which is well adapted to the female character, and affords much rational amusement to the recluse, who by choice or chance is separated "from the crowded haunts of men, in busy cities pent." The pleasure of the cultivator of flowers is not confined to the gratification of beholding the expanded flower, when it spreads forth its glories to the meridian sun; every stage of its growth has been a source of delight, from the moment the seedling but peeped above the ground to the period of its perfect development; and a flower which has been reared by one's own hand is viewed with tenfold delight, compared with one the growth of which has not been witnessed or provided for.

LAYING OUT THE GARDEN.—A garden is an artificial appendage to an artificial object. A flower is not a production of unaided nature, nor can a garden ever be supposed to have sprung up spontaneously: therefore all that has been said against straight walks and square beds, can only prove that a garden may be too precisely laid out, and never demonstrate that it should assume the appearance of a wood or a wilderness. Circles, squares, ovals, and angles, are all pleasing figures, and are all strictly appropriate to the flower garden, which is a spot where art and taste unite to display to advantage the charms of nature.

The art of gardening, indeed, like painting, or any of the fine arts, requires that the imitation of nature should not be too close; for a flower gardener, who should imitate nature so exactly as to allow the grass and weeds to spring up, in all their pristine luxuriance, among his choice flowers, would not produce a beautiful result, but would disgust by his slovenliness, while he meant to charm by his artificiality. Flower gardens are not to be laid out with a view to their appearance in a picture, but to their use, and the enjoyment of them in real life; and their conformity to these purposes is what constitutes their true beauty.

After all, the mode or manner of laying out a garden must always remain a matter of individual taste; which taste will generally be more or less modified by the prevailing fashion of the day, and the circumstances connected with the situation in which the garden may be placed.

GRAVEL WALKS, BOX AND THRIFT EDGINGS.—Are the best and indeed only proper divisions of the flower garden. Gravel walks, to be kept in good order, should be broken up once a year, about the middle of May: they must be broken up with a pickaxe, raked, and carefully rolled, and then little or no grass will shoot; what does, must be immediately removed.

PLANTING BOX AND THRIFT.—When the gravel walk is made, the mould must be carefully dug away close to the gravel—leave no mould between the box and the gravel; a trench must then be made nearly a foot deep, the roots of the box must be parted, and the redundant part cut off, the box is now to be placed evenly against the gravel—a line must be used; a thin edging only is requisite, as box increases very fast. The mould must now be trodden down close to the box, and the top clipped all to one height. If the weather be dry it must be carefully watered. The edging should stand about four inches high; the earth in the border or beds must be kept back from smothering it during the first year. The best time to plant box is April and October, in showery weather. It may be clipped early in the spring, and be replanted every three or four years, when its increase will be found very great.

THRIFT, if neatly planted, makes pretty edgings to borders or flower beds, both as an evergreen and flowering plant, particularly the scarlet, which makes a beautiful appearance in summer. It should be planted in the early spring months and kept watered. It increases very fast, is cheaper than box, and very hardy.

PLANTING.—When the garden is laid out, according to the taste of its proprietor, the next thing to be attended to is the planting. In doing this, either in beds or borders, it is necessary carefully to attend to the height and colour of each particular plant, as much of their beauty will be lost, except care is taken to heighten their effect by contrast. The smaller plants should be disposed in clusters near the edge of the bed or border, and those of increasing size placed behind, in succession, till the tall ones reach the centre of the bed or the back of the border. In narrow borders, which will not admit of more than one or

two rows of plants, either singly or in groups, plants of different heights may be grown alternately, taking care the larger do not overshadow or hide the smaller ones. Great care must be had, in selecting plants, to secure a succession of flowers. In small gardens, particularly, it is necessary to attend carefully to the variety of colours, heights of plants, and their time of blowing; or when the plants come to maturity, they will produce anything rather than a pleasing effect; but with due attention, there is little or no difficulty in keeping a constant supply; so that for the greater part of the year something pretty or showy may be found.

JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE.

The United States Squadron, under the command of Commodore Biddle, consisting of the *Columbus*, seventy-four, and the corvette *Vincennes*, have been on a visit to the Island of Japan. The Sandwich Island Polynesian gives the following account of their reception:—

The ship anchored some distance below the city (Jeddo) for want of proper charts, and the indisposition of the authorities to allow her to come nearer. The letter from the United States Government, was forwarded to the Emperor, explaining the objects of the visit, to which he replied that he had heard of the United States, that they were a flourishing and great nation, and that he hoped they would continue to be prosperous, but declined any closer relations with them. The only foreign trade that would be allowed, was with the Dutch and Chinese. He begged the ship would supply herself with what she wanted speedily, up anchor, be off, and never return.

Landing was disallowed, but the ship was supplied with such as the country afforded, wood, water, poultry, eggs, and vegetables, for which neither pay nor presents were received in return. Nothing like trade was allowed with the numerous visitors that came on board. Even presents of coin, etc., given to some of the shore people, were afterwards returned. The only productions of the country obtained, were a parcel of presents sent by the Emperor to the Commodore, which were declined by him. The Japanese officer having them in charge, dared not return without delivering them, and as it was at the dusk of the evening, he threw his packet into one of the quarter boats, and pulled off for the shore as fast as possible. There being no way to return it, the contents were divided among the officers, but they contained nothing of much value or skill in workmanship.

The Japanese had heard of the intended visit of the *Columbus*, but seemed much surprised at her dimensions. She was visited by many of the inhabitants, evidently with the Emperor's permission, but there were no females among them. Armed boats were kept about her, as in the case of the *Manhattan*, but they were not of force to resist a man-of-war. The men are represented as a fine, athletic race, inquisitive, and intelligent. The shore off which the *Columbus* lay, was rocky, but wooded, fertile, and apparently well cultivated. Hogs and bullocks were not to be had, though other supplies were plentiful. The *Columbus* lay there ten days. The *Vincennes* was subjected to similar treatment.

The uniform of the officers that boarded the *Columbus*, was of a singular description, resembling somewhat female attire, according to American ideas, rather than a military, or even male costume. So fair and youthful were some of these gentlemen, that were it not for the two swords they each wore, they would have readily been mistaken for women. The military wore metallic armour, protecting the body and limbs. It was richly japanned and very flexible. On the back of each individual were the armorial bearings of the chief or clan to which he belonged. These were all painted in circles, and exhibited much intricacy of design and heraldic knowledge.

In one of the drawings of these, which, through the politeness of Dr. Guillon, we were permitted to examine, on board of the *Columbus*, we noticed as the centre symbol, a perfect Roman cross. This is the more singular, as the cross has been for centuries, in Japan, an object of national contempt. The Japanese officers exhibited the greatest sensitiveness in allowing the Americans to look at their swords, the blades of which were of exceeding keenness and delicacy, rivalling in appearance and quality, the best Damascene. There is a saying among them, that Japanese arms and valour are inseparably