

season is better than from 5 to 8 pounds to a bushel of feed consumed, because many are fed too long in the anxiety of farmers to secure heavy weights. The feeding operations should cease the moment the animal is in good condition for the market. Then this farmer may expect a fair remuneration.

Flowers.

Our first importation from Holland direct arrived since the last paper was published. It is not a large stock, and is intended only for our lady friends. It consists of Gladioluses and Lilies of fine varieties. We will send a choice, finely-colored Gladiolus bulb as a present to those of our lady subscribers who have paid their \$1 and have not received any present, by their sending 5 cents to pay for package and postage. The gentlemen had the opportunity offered of getting presents of grain last month, and many availed themselves of it. To every new lady subscriber who sends us \$1 for a year's subscription to the ADVOCATE during the present month, we will send one choice Lily Bulb, or two Dahlias, or two Gladiolus Bulbs, or "Vick's Floral Guide" and a package of choice flower seeds, or a grape vine; also, to the lady who obtains ten new subscribers at \$1 each, in addition to the ADVOCATE and the presents to each as above stated, we will send (postpaid) one of Vick's beautiful and handsome Chromos, which cannot fail to please, as they are exceedingly beautiful. You may add gentlemen's names if you choose, and receive the flower seeds and bulbs, or the gentlemen may have field seeds, vegetables or potatoes sent to them.

LADIES!

read the above. Can you employ a little time more beneficially than in introducing into your neighbourhood the choicest and most valuable seeds for the farm?—such pleasing, cheering and refining ornaments as flowers, which always make home attractive, and render it more peaceful and more heaven-like—and by the introduction into your homes of a paper that will not taint your morals, does not interfere with your different religious feelings, tries to avoid political strife, and is furnishing the most valuable information concerning seeds, implements and stock, as well as giving amusement to the young and information to the old? After the first year you would have seeds and plants of each kind for every subscriber, by exchanging. We feel satisfied that some gray-headed old lady or gentleman will say to one of the children or grandchildren—"Yes, my dear, go and try what you can do," the result will be—"Mr. Weld, I have succeeded in getting up a club; please send me one of the Chromos, and such and such seeds, for so-and-so." Just go and try. If you do not gain a pair of the Chromos, or even one, if you only send three or four new names, we will present you with a few flower seeds that will please you.

Now is just the time to get your flowers. Go to work at once. Send your orders in by the 20th of this month, then you can plant them out by the 3rd of June; you will probably have a better flower garden in the fall than those who planted earlier. In our list will be found a collection of choice hardy Annuals most suitable for the farmers' garden—such as do not require a hot house, but will thrive with common care.

RURAL LIFE.

Statistics teach us that farmers live longer lives than any other class who perform labor of a mechanical kind, and that they are excelled in longevity only by those who work with the brain occasionally, as preachers, orators and public speakers. And the probability is that considering the healthfulness of their employment and the general freedom from annoying cares and anxieties which they enjoy, their lives might be even more relatively the most enduring, did they exercise care in choosing their diet and in preserving themselves from sudden chills during the most trying season of their labor, that of harvest. It is then that most farmers contract diseases which are sooner or later fatal to them.

SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS.

(From Vick's Floral Guide.)

The Summer Bulbs are a most useful and brilliant class of flowers, and becoming every year more popular, both among florists and amateurs everywhere. The Gladiolus now takes rank at the very head of the list, and the Dahlia still retains a good share of its old popularity. The Summer Bulbs are tender, and therefore

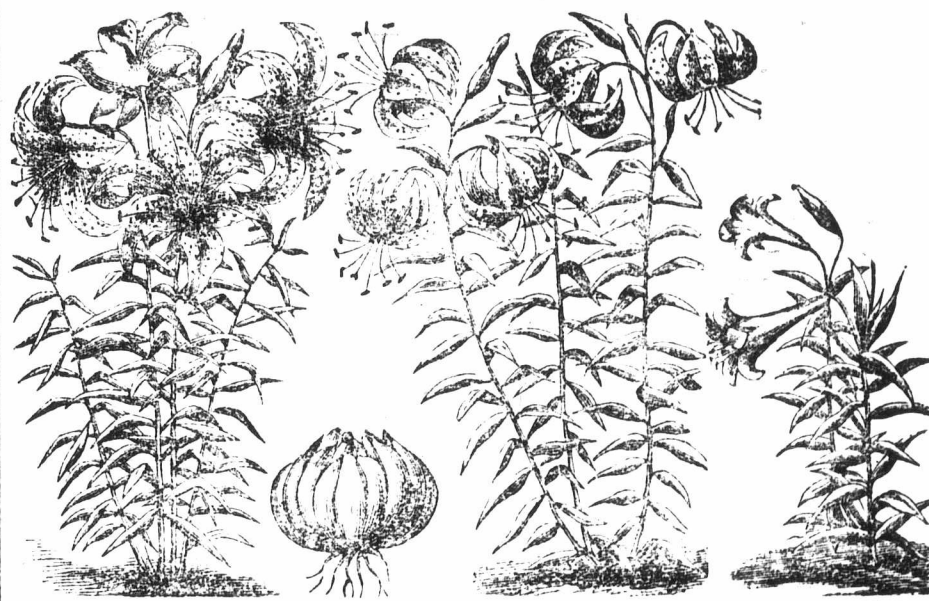
destroyed by freezing, and must not be planted until frost is over in the spring. In the autumn they must be taken up before very hard frosts, and kept in the cellar or some other safe place until spring. They are easily preserved in good condition, and will richly repay for the little care required in their treatment.



GLADIOLUS.

The Gladiolus is the most beautiful of our Summer Bulbs, with tall spikes of flowers, some two feet or more in height, and of several from the same bulb. The flowers are of almost every desirable color—brilliant scarlet, crimson, creamy white, striped, blotched and spotted in the most curious and interesting manner. The culture is very simple. Set the bulbs from six to nine inches apart, and cover about three inches. If set in rows they may be set six inches apart in the rows,

and the rows one foot apart. The planting may be done at different times, from the middle of April to the middle of June, to secure a long succession of bloom. Keep the earth mellow, and place a neat stake to support the spikes in storms. I have never known a case where the Gladiolus failed to give the most perfect satisfaction, opening a new field of beauty to those unacquainted with its merits. For indoor decoration, such as ornamenting the dining-table, schools, churches, &c.,



LILIUM AURATUM.

LILIUM LANCIFOLIUM.

LILIUM LONGIFLORUM.

SPINACH.

it is unsurpassed, making a magnificent display with little trouble. In the fall, take up the bulbs, let them dry in the air for a few days, then cut off the tops and store the bulbs out of the way of frost, for next season's planting. Look at them occasionally. If kept in a place too moist, they will show signs of mildew. If this appears, remove them to a dryer position. If the bulbs shrivel, it shows they are getting too dry; but they do not usually suffer from a dry atmosphere. In all foreign and American Catalogues several varieties are described as *white*. I have made descriptions as found true in my own grounds, but to prevent disappointment, will say I know of no reliable pure white Gladiolus.

Long before green peas are ready for use, farmers' wives wander about the fields or marshes, or fence corners, or the road side, searching for dandelion, or mustard, or cowslip, or some still viler weed for greens.

Now, by a little care and labor in the early part of September and as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring, every gardener can have the best of green peas upon his table from the middle of April until the time of green peas. Three or four square rods of rich soil sown at the times above mentioned to spinach, will afford an abundant supply for a very large family. The ground should be very rich, should be spaded deep and fine, and the seed covered about an inch in drills one foot apart.

Round leaved or Summer is the best variety for spring sowing, and if sowed as early as possible, will be large enough to commence cutting the latter part of May. — *Country Farmer*.

HIGH PRICE OF FOWLS.

The great scarcity of fowls in our market and the high price paid for them is the cause of much complaint among our house keepers. Raising and fattening fowl pays well; on every farm there is the facility for feeding them, and yet they are scarce in the market. Will not our farmers' wives and daughters procure a greater supply for the demand? The State of Iowa cannot boast of a climate or soil equal to that of Canada, and there they make quite a good thing by poultry. We give one instance:—Mrs. Gage, in Story County, raised six hundred Brahama chickens that weighed from six to fifteen pounds. She fed them on corn meal, wheat screenings, and the coarser grains of the farm, with sour milk. She says she can raise a pound of poultry with as little trouble and expense as a pound of pork, and she can sell it for twice as much. What she has done there can be done as well here. Often a neglected spot, a waste corner in the farm, can be turned to good account by growing something to help in feeding the fowl. In such places let sun-flower seed be sown; the abundant seed they produce will be a choice addition to the food of the poultry yard. And besides, the bad air that arises from some damp places will be deprived of much of its injurious influence to the health by the abundant growth of the sun-flowers.

OUT WEST.

SIR.—I am sorry I have not more time on my hands which would afford me the opportunity of sketching you a general outline of progress and prospects up west.

I have intended to correspond, in a very amiable way, with the *London Press*. I look upon it as a debt to the press to give a correct account of any promising features that the face of our country affords through the flood of intelligence pouring through the columns of the many useful periodicals with which our province is favored, in its practical application we all derive a benefit.

The western portion is evidently designed to eventually become a large dairy district. The benefit of this to the community, when it is fairly in operation, can hardly now be estimated. In my humble opinion the day is just dawning when ten of thousands of wealth will find its way into our section of country for our exports of dairy products, where now little or nothing is afforded.

We have now in operation in one section, an area of not more than 4 miles, 4 cheese factories, named respectively, Butler's, Shaw's, Wilson's and Webb's in the Township of Howland, also one in Oxford, Bar's factory. People are waking up to their own interests in these matters, and so far as the operation under my supervision is concerned I can speak positively, having secured nearly 200 cows as patronage to begin with, and having seen one of the best operations that I am acquainted with in Canada, viz., the London North Branch Cheese Factory steam appliance for manipulating and carving cheese, have taken what I term the model factory as my pattern, which is now in operation. To appreciate the arrangement, it must be seen. I found Mr. E. S. Harris, the cheese maker whom the company have been fortunate enough to employ, a very obliging and accommodating gentleman. His cheese made in this factory last season is reported from England by the English purchasers as very handsome, and equal to the best Canadian they had ever seen. This, Mr. Editor, I think will justify my statement. We have made cheese out west which stands No. 1 in the English market, and we intend to keep up our reputation and not be behind London or any other section in Ontario.

This is one of the great advantages of such papers. When once a man acquires knowledge he is always anxious to acquire more, and to put it into practice. He is no longer content to move on in the old track he will go on improving, and at all times willing to help forward the good work of improvement. You are entitled to the gratitude of the farmers for the many useful lessons you have given them in the *Advocate* and for bringing them out to help themselves and one another.

With thanks for the interest you have taken in the welfare of Agriculture, I am,

Ridgetown, April.

Yours,
W. H.