

## THE CROWN O' THE YEAR.

Out of my low little lattice  
 I looked, and the skies were blue ;  
 And the gossamer robes of the Morning  
 Were spangled with diamond dew ;  
 There were pearls on the wayside sedges,  
 And gems on the hawthorn spray,  
 And a scintillant rainbow shiver  
 Ran over the fields and away.

A merry tom-tit was singing  
 A-top of the maple tall ;  
 And a gadding rose, belated,  
 Looked over the garden wall ;  
 The brooklet, astray in the meadows,  
 Was piping her reedy song :  
 Ah ! Fair is the Spring ! I echoed ;  
 And Summer is gladsome and long !

With her lovely procession of flowers,  
 Her music of bird-song and breeze,  
 Her sunshine and soft tripping showers,  
 And lullaby droning of bees !  
 And Winter is hale and wholesome,  
 With his bluster and sparkle and cheer ;  
 But Autumn, brown-bearded and ruddy,  
 Wearerth the crown o' the year !

Heir of the bountiful seasons,  
 He opens his lavish hands,  
 And the gold of a myriad harvests  
 Is scattered about the lands !  
 It rustles along the corn-rows,  
 It glimmers among the sheaves,  
 It mellowes the red-streaked apples  
 That dangle about the eaves !

Fanned by his frosty northers,  
 The wide woods kindle and blaze ;  
 The infinite ether above us  
 Smiles down thro' a daffodil haze ;  
 The golden-rods light up the thickets ;  
 With mosses, and brambles, and ferns,  
 He spreads for our footsteps a pathway  
 Of glory that glitters and burns !

A luscious ripeness lingers  
 Abroad in the sunny air ;  
 And a thousand rich aromas  
 Steal on us unaware ;  
 Let Summer vaunt her roses,  
 And Winter his princely cheer,  
 But Autumn, brown and ruddy,  
 Wearerth the crown o' the year !

EMMA ALICE BROWNE.

N. Y. Ledger.

CHICAGO'S PARKS.—From 125,000 to 150,000 plants are raised every year to fill the beds in Lincoln Park, Chicago. Of these about 24,000 are geraniums, 37,000 coleus, 20,000 Echiveras, and the remainder mixed plants in lots of from 1,000 to 5,000. One of the large beds in the park requires 10,000 plants to fill it ; several of the baskets and vases require from 150 to 250 good sized specimens. There are four houses, each 100 x 12, and a number of cold pits or frames, in use for raising these plants.—*Michigan Farmer.*

THE RUBBER PLANT IN MEXICO.—Mexico is making a study of the culture of the rubber plant. The hardness of the plant is said to be such that its culture is exceedingly simple and inexpensive, where the climate and soil are suitable. In much of the Mexican coast region the only expense is the weeding required when the plants are young, to give them a chance to grow and strengthen.

TOBACCO JUICE VAPOR FOR PLANTS.—The vapor of tobacco juice has been tested in France as an insecticide in green houses with great success. Instead of burning or smoking the tobacco, which is a very offensive process to some persons, the tobacco is made into an extract by soaking or boiling, and the juice is then placed over a chafing dish, a fire, or the flame of an ordinary lamp, and deposited in the greenhouse or conservatory. Delicate plants which are very sensitive to smoke are not injured by this vapor, and it leaves no offensive atmosphere, while it effectually disposes of thrips, lice, scale insects, and slugs. One quart of tobacco juice vaporized in a house containing 350 cubic feet is an ample amount.—*Scientific American.*

PLUMS FOR MARKET.—At the late meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society, R. N. Handy, of Orleans County, asked for the best market plums for an orchard of 200 or 300 trees, which he intended to set out in spring. S. D. Willard, who has had much experience with plums, said it is hard to select for others, but he would name the Lombard, Copper plum, Reine Claude de Bavay, as profitable for market. All plum trees must be well fed, or else it is better not to plant them at all. The Reine Claude de Bavay is liable to overbear, and the fruit must be timely thinned. The yellow or light-colored plums sell best. He plants his trees 12 by 16 feet apart ; some of them 16 by 16. Moore's Arctic plum, from Maine, was highly spoken of for cold regions. Mr. Barry said Pond's Seedling is a valuable market sort, but a light bearer while the tree is young. The McLaughlin was commended for high quality. The Jefferson is an excellent plum, but the tree is a poor grower.