

With the Canadian Poets.

Last Words.

The following beautiful lines were written by Sir Gilbert Parker, M. P. Mr. Parker is a well-known novelist, his works dealing principally with Canada in the old colonial days, when Britain and France were struggling for supremacy on this continent. Gilbert Parker is an ordained priest of the Church of England, and was for a considerable time rector of Trenton, Ontario. He is now a member of the Imperial House of Commons:

I am not brave; I am not strong
In deeds of great heroic worth;
I only walk the wrinkled earth
In peace with men, in strife with wrong.

I bear my part as best I can
Among the chafing multitudes;
I love the world's calm solitudes
That have been so since time began.

I love—ah, God! I love the faith
That blesses while it purifies,
And scatters stardrifts through the skies
That light the way to Life and Death.

I love the hands that hold a trust
Inviolable as the granite shore,
That clasped keep it evermore,
Till earth be earth and dust be dust.

And hearts that keep not any guile
Of evil shaping to its mood,
But cleaving Christ-like to the Good,
Have guerdon in the afterwhile.

Ah! friends of days and not of years,
What gentle heaven and largesse
Of kindness holds me in duress
To you; my spirit stoops and hears.

But words are cold and I am weak
In tongue or pen to say my mind;
I strive, but striving I am blind;
And this is all that I can speak.

But all beyond this pleasant land
I shall look back with eager eyes
To spaces green as Paradise
With memories men understand.

Who walk about in stranger climes,
Less pilgrim than the Ishmaelite,
And walk not always in the light,
And feel not always the Sublime.

So may it be with me: I know
But only this, I value all
That you have given; whatever befall
I shall remember! Even so.

"A Question."

What the question is we are not told,
but assuredly must it have reference to:

"Love that is first and last of all things
made,
The light that moving has man's life for
shade."

The tender expression on the face of the fair maid leads one to imagine that a favorable answer will be ultimately given to the handsome young lover at her side. German landscape painting is characterized by a touch of romance, which finds a ready response in the hearts of all young people, and is not unpopular even with those who have long since left the flowery realms of romance. The massive old walls of the garden make a most pleasing background for the figures of the young lovers; the delicate touches of the sun, as it is reflected through the leaves, being a very effective feature in E. Blair Leighton's painting. H. A. B.

Composition on Ducks.

A schoolboy was asked to prepare an essay on the subject of "Ducks," and this is what he wrote: "The duck is a low, heavy-set bird, composed mostly of meat and feathers. He is a mighty poor singer, having a hoarse voice caused by getting so many frogs in his neck. He likes the water and carries a toy balloon in his stomach to keep him from sinking. The duck has only two legs and they are set so far back on his running gear by nature that she came purty near missing his body. Some ducks when they get big have curls on their tails and are called drakes. Drakes don't have to set or hatch, but just loaf, go swimming and eat. If I was to be a duck I'd rather be a drake every time."

With the Flowers.

Winter Protection for Plants.

As a rule, in setting out shrubs, vines and perennials, people choose only those which are hardy, and which require as little "fussing with" as possible in preparation for winter. By some chance or mischance, however, tender plants or bushes may have got into your garden, and if so, you will have to do what you can to prolong their lease of life. Snow is, of course, an ideal protector. It is at once porous, yet a nonconductor of heat, and if you could be quite sure that a good thick covering of it would stay over your plants throughout all the season of frost, you might very well have your garden to itself. But there are the severe frosts of fall and spring, when no snow blanket lies on the ground, to be thought of. Worse even than these are the successive thawings and freezings which occur sometimes in the middle of the winter, and are disastrous no less to the flowers in the garden than to the fall wheat in the fields.

manure, however, some care should be exercised. Manure is very apt to clog together and "smother" the roots, especially fleshy or tuberous ones, such as those of the Iris and Peony. When placed upon these, therefore, only the lightest and most strawy material should be used, and it should, in every case, be kept from direct contact with the roots by a thick layer of litter or leaves. The greatest advantage in using manure is its beneficial effect in the spring, when the rains wash its fertilizing properties into the earth. The other protective coverings mentioned above are equally effective in every other way, and, as a rule, safer. The only precaution necessary is to keep the leaves, etc., from becoming matted into a wet, compact mass which may freeze into a covering which will smother the roots. In order to guard against this, many people place the leaves, marsh hay, etc., in a dry place, and leave it there until the fall rains are practically over. Then the



"A Question."

In determining which of your plants and shrubs need protection, if you are not sure about the matter, it is best to go by your seed catalogue. Those marked "hardy" are not likely to need any covering, except in a very exposed position in a very rigorous climate. Those marked "half hardy," however, most certainly need protection, while those designated "tender," such as dahlias and cannas, should be taken up and placed in a frost-proof cellar.

In covering up roots of perennials, strawy manure, straw, marsh hay, leaves, evergreen branches and earth have all been used with some success. In using

covering is put on before the severe winter frosts set in. Others put the covering over the plants earlier in the fall, and invert over it troughs, or v-shaped coverings made of boards, which will keep out the rain, and so keep the litter from packing down on the roots.

In covering small shrubs, use boxes with water-tight bottoms. Fill with leaves and invert over the shrubs, but see that there are a few openings about the sides to permit circulation of the air. Larger shrubs may be protected by wisps of straw bound round them and held in place by poles placed wigwam fashion. Tender vines should be cut from their

supports, laid upon the ground and covered with earth.

A CHRYSANTHEMUM HINT.

If you wish to have large flowers upon your chrysanthemums, pick off all the buds except the central one of each cluster. The fewer the blossoms upon a stalk the larger those blossoms will be. Keep a sharp lookout for plant lice, and if they appear spray the plants with tobacco water, or with a solution of sulpho-tobacco soap.

TO PLANT LOVERS.

There are many plant lovers who have achieved marked success in dealing with certain species of plants, and who may, possibly, feel like giving the benefit of their experience to others less fortunate. We shall gladly give space in our Flower Corner for all practical letters of this nature. Kindly address all communications to—
FLORA FERNLEAF,
"Farmer's Advocate" office, London,
Ont.

Poisonous Bites and Stings.

Hydrophobia is such a frightful disease that there is little wonder if the cry of "Mad dog" sets a community in a panic of terror. Even though Pasteur's antitoxin treatment has been so far moderately successful, it is a far cry to Paris. There is, however, an unreasonable dread in the minds of many if they are bitten by a dog at all, and insanely demand the death of the poor animal. They cry out for the sacrifice not only of "a hair of the dog that bit" them, but of the whole animal. Now, there is no more danger in the bite of a healthy dog than there is in the scratch of a nail, and nothing whatever is needed but washing with cold water, and application of a little boric ointment. If the dog is certainly known to be ill, then a handkerchief should be tied very tightly above the wound, which should be freely washed with warm water to encourage bleeding. The wound should be deeply scarified and enlarged all round, after which it should be seared with strong nitric acid.

SNAKE and adder bites should be similarly treated, but in addition, as great depression is apt to follow rapidly, large doses of alcohol or of stimulant should be at once administered.

Stings of wasps, bees or gnats are usually very painful, and to nervous, delicate people, serious enough sometimes. The sting should be at once removed by pressing over it a watch key. The part often becomes much swollen and inflamed, and should be bathed with ammonia solution or sal volatile mixed with laudanum.

The Hero.

The English schoolboy, like the American, adores his leader in athletic games, just as a grown man prizes his chief in politics and war. Whatever may be a boy's shortcomings in scholarship, says Blackwood's Magazine, his athletic attainments will establish him as a hero.

One day, years ago, when a boy on his vacation from Harrow was walking with his father, a Cambridge youth who had just performed some feat in a university cricket match passed them and gave the lad a nod. The boy grew pink with excitement. He nudged his father.

"Look, father, look!" he exclaimed. "That was Cobden."

"What, my boy! Who was it?" "Cobden."

"Ah, yes, to be sure, Cobden," said the father. Then, feeling that cordiality demanded his expressing some interest in the stranger, he added, "Now, I wonder whether he is any relation to the great Cobden?"

The boy spoke up proudly: "He is the great Cobden!"

"Can you gimme a bite, ma'am?" said the ragged hobo. "I'm hungry enuf ter eat a hoss."

"I regret to say," replied the kind lady, "that we are just out of horses; but I'll call the dog."