



Horticulture.

Dicentra (Dielytra) Spectabilis, or the Bleeding Heart.

We present our readers with an engraving of this very beautiful flower, prepared by our artist from a photograph of a specimen grown in Canada. We only regret that it is not possible to show the peculiarly beautiful colouring, as well as the elegant form of this most graceful and pleasing of our hardy flowers; but we are persuaded that it will soon find its way to every garden in Canada, and become one of the cherished attractions of our rural homes. The foliage

is of a light transparent green, the flowers bright rosy pink, having a pearl white corolla set with frosted silver, and they hang from graceful nodding sprays by hundreds upon a well-grown specimen.

This charming plant is a native of China, but proves to possess that hardihood which is so essential a quality in the plants that ornament the gardens of Canada, it being able to endure the cold of our severest winters, in any part of the country, without the slightest protection. It is an herbaceous perennial, the foliage dying off to the ground at the approach of winter. In April, or as soon as the frost is fully out, it comes up, and during the latter part of May and first of June it is covered with its hanging heart-shaped flowers. It requires a season of frost in order to its perfect development and those who wish to flower it in pots for in-door decoration, should place it in a cold frame where the weather can act upon it until the holidays, when it can be removed to the house. But the garden seems to be its appropriate place—there it flourishes in all its beauty—the flowers are of a deeper hue and the plant more robust and vigorous. If it be cut down to the ground as soon as the flowering season is over, it will grow up again and give a second bloom. It seems to flourish well in all well-drained soils, and is of such easy cultivation that no one can have any trouble in making it thrive. It can be procured of our nurserymen at prices so reasonable as to bring it within the reach of all.

"Apples in Chateaugay."

We have received an interesting letter from Geo. Young, Ormstown, in which, after remarking that very little attention has been given to the raising of fruit in that section, he says that a few enterprising individuals have planted orchards of choice apples, hoping that with care and attention, they will be able to succeed. "Many of the larger apple trees, in this section, were much injured by the extreme cold of the winter of 1860 and 1861. Exposure to raking winds, had probably much to do with this, for I have noticed some orchards of large trees on high and exposed places, which were almost entirely killed out. When the trees were partially protected by woods, the injury was not so great. Old farmers say that the winters are much more severe now than formerly.

May not this be accounted for, in the continued cutting away of the forests, thus exposing the whole face of the country to the blasts of winter? The Editor of the *American Agriculturist* gives it as his opinion, that the protection of a belt of evergreens to an exposed orchard, is equal to a removal of three or four degrees further south." "The soil," he says "is mostly a stiff clay, very retentive of water," and he believes that when it is not underdrained, the fruit trees sustain much injury from stagnant water. He has noticed that a young orchard invariably makes a vigorous, healthy growth, for four or five years, but when the roots reach the cold, wet subsoil, the trees become unhealthy and show very unmistakable signs of premature decay. The seedling trees he finds more hardy than the grafted, but not more than two fifths bear fruit worth having. The varieties most cultivated are the Fameuse, St. Lawrence, Pomme Grise, and Borassa, yet under the existing mode of culture, these are not hardy enough. He says, "I have high hopes that with under-draining, subsoiling and the protection of a belt of evergreens in the direction of prevailing winds, we will be able to succeed with any of



DICENTRA SPECTABILIS.

these. I have never seen nor heard of a dwarf apple tree in this country. Do you think they would be likely to prove hardier than the standard?" There is good reason to hope that by protecting the trees with evergreens, and thoroughly draining the ground, such hardy varieties as those named, will be made to thrive. And inasmuch as the seedling trees prove more hardy, may there not be hope of raising up a race of hardy sorts, which will be able to endure the climate and likewise worth having, by a careful selection of such seedlings as are hardy and good, and propagating from them. The Dwarf apple on the Paradise stock may not be any hardier than the standard, but it is so low it would not be so much exposed to the winds, and the roots do not penetrate so deep into the subsoil; for these reasons we inquired whether they had been planted, thinking it possible they might be made to succeed on that account.

Grape Vines.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, I have read with attention and interest an article in the number for March 15th, on the culture of the grape vine on the "single stem dwarf and renewal system," but unhappily failed to derive from it all the information which I feel to be desirable and necessary. It seems to me that, besides your "whole system in a nutshell," there must be something outside to secure continuance, or there can be no "rotation," and the whole process must speedily come to an end.

I can understand how ten vines may be made to produce fruit and ten wood, and what should subsequently be done with the latter ten. My difficulty is with the former. How am I to proceed with them when they have done with their fruiting, in order to secure a succession of "fresh and vigorous wood?" You say, "The method is simply to fruit the vines in alternate years on a single short cane, and with very short lateral branches, cutting down at the end of the season to two or three eyes, and the following year allowing the strongest one of these eyes to grow, expecting it to bear fruit the next year." Cutting

down what? The "single short cane" that has been fruiting? Of that alone you are speaking. But where am I to find in it the two or three eyes to which it is to be cut down, and from one of which the fresh wood is to grow the following year, for fruit the next year? The cane that has just fruited is no longer a cane in the sense in which it was so before; it has eyes no longer; and, unless I am to depend on some twig pushing out at random from the old wood, there must, so far as these vines are concerned, be an end of the matter. And so will it be with the other ten in their season. Pardon me for suspecting that, in writing this sentence, you have inadvertently passed from one kind of timber to another, and thus taken hold of the wrong stick. If so, and if this is to be cut down to two or three eyes, whence is your fruit to grow in the coming season?

Your correspondent W. S. does not supply the deficiency. "Before planting," says he, "cut down the stem to two or three eyes. When the vines break, select the strongest, giving the preference to the one nearest the ground. Pinch off all the others." But what if the strongest, as is very likely to be the case, is not the one nearest the ground? There is in vines a tendency to produce their strongest new wood at an increasing distance from the root. It is desirable to learn how this tendency may be counteracted, and how, on any system, good canes may be constantly obtained not far from the ground. This, however, inpass. 2. "When the leaves fall," W. S. directs to "cut down every other cane, or every other row of

canes, as may be determined upon, to within two eyes of the ground, and to cut back the canes intended to be fruited next year to the top of the stake or trellis," &c. He also gives directions under the head of "Fruiting." But when the fruiting is over, what is to be done with the vines which have so fruited? I find no information, and should be glad to have some. The canes have done their duty, and are now old wood. Whence is the new wood to sprig next season? For aught that appears, these vines are defunct. I should be glad, and so probably would your correspondent, J. K., to learn if there are, according to this system, any means, and what means, of resuscitation.

Possibly all the difficulty may arise from my being, as they express it in another land, rather "dull in the uptake." However this may be, I need some further instruction.

St. Andrews, C. E.

H.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Will "W. S." be kind enough to tell H. how to find the eyes he is looking for?