

The meeting was then adjourned until the last day of February, then to meet at the Court House, Annapolis, to settle up the business of the past and make the necessary arrangement for the ensuing year.

GEORGE WHITMAN, Pres.
STATHENS BAILEY, Sec'y.
Round Hill, Feb. 2nd, 1872.

Miscellaneous.

SPRING WORK.

(From the Gardener's Monthly.)

FLOWER GARDEN & PLEASURE GROUND.

The cultivation of flowers, as distinct from mere massing for effect, is becoming far more popular than it has been. It not only gives more pleasure, but it costs less. We saw a statement in an English paper recently, that the mass of geraniums and other bedding plants for masses, ribbons, and so on, raised by one of the famous English gardeners for his own grounds, would, if put into the market at the regular florists' rates, bring \$10,000. The massing system has its merits—no place can be made "up to the time" without a little of it. But the cultivation of flowers as such, should not be wholly sacrificed for them.

The seedsmen complain that there are not as many novelties to offer this, as in former years, but there are, at any rate, many which have been introduced in former years which are not yet widely known, and which have had little testing with us; so that we need not rely wholly on their foreign behavior as we generally have to do with wholly new introductions. Of those which have proved pretty good as annuals are *Aphanostephus ramosissimus*, which has blue flowers something in the way of our greenhouse Cinerarias. Some of our North American Columbines and Delphiniums, although not quite annuals, may be treated as such, and are very beautiful; and of this biennial class, *Armeria splendens* has been found a good thing to have; and we may add to this that beautiful native plant which ought to have been introduced into culture long ago, the pretty orange-flowered *Asclepias tuberosa*. Rather coarse in growth, but still handsome is the *Bidens atrosanguinea*, or Crimson Star Marigold; while for very handsome foliage, and flowers not quite equal to Pampas grass in striking effect, is *Bocconia japonica*. All the *Browallias* do very well in our borders: and the peculiar color of the *Callirhoes* always makes them welcome. *Cannas* all have striking effects by their foliage, and as they are not grown for their flowers so much, it is no objection that they do not generally flower the first year from seed. *Clianthus Dampieri* is, perhaps,

the most striking of all the beautiful introductions of the past few years, although some of the improved Chinese Pinks are not far behind *Eucharidium grandiflorum*, though much like an old Clarkii, has a free habit of growth, and a good, deep rosy color,—and the Godetia, or *Enothera Whitneyi* of last year, came up pretty well to the idea of a popular favorite. For a pretty white and green variegated plant, the *Euphorbia variegata*, as we saw it last summer on the Western plains, is well worth sowing; and this reminds us also to say a good word for the improved *Gaillardias*, as the original *G. picta* stood the burning sun of the southwestern plains fully equal to anything we saw there. The *Gilias* bloom well and look pretty for a time, but they die out early in the season. *Humea elegans* is a grand thing if it can be sown the year previous to flowering, and the plants kept over. In *Mignonette* the Parson's White has attracted much attention from its not being white, or much different in color from the old one; but it is certainly of a better habit, and a desirable variety. The new *Pentstemons* sometimes flower the first season; but they do not seem to admire the hottest places on our grounds. In the Drummond Phloxes, always popular, there are now nearly as many colors as in Verbenas; and the same is true of *Portulaccas*, which, from their only doing well in hot, sunny places, fill a place in our garden work, nothing else will do so well. The Castor Oil Plants—*Ricinus*—has given us so many nice forms of leaves that we can scarcely do without it, though a few years ago, when there was but the one, it was considered too common to grow. There are other things which have done pretty well; but these have proved of almost universal adaptation to our ground.

Having by the aid of these suggestions, our back numbers, and the seedsmen's catalogues, got together our set of seeds, suppose we take our friends to the garden and give them a practical lesson in sowing.

The day is warm, and the surface soil just dry enough to powder when struck with the back of the trowel. We should not ask their company otherwise, for when the soil is sticky it won't do to sow seed. The ground has been dry several days before. The surface is now powdered and about the thickness of the trowel blade scraped off. The seed is then sown, the soil drawn back and beat firmly down on the seed. You see how near the top we sowed the seed, and how firmly we beat the soil over it, and we spoke about a "first principle." This principle is this:—Seeds want moisture to make them grow, but they must also have air—one is an evil without the other. If deep they get only water, in which case they rot. If entirely on the surface they

get only air, and then they dry up. "But, Mr. Hintsman, why beat the soil so firm?" Another principle, dear lady, lies there. Large spaces in soil enable the earth to dry out rapidly; small spaces, on the other hand, hold water. Crushing earth, when dry, gives it these small spaces; or as gardeners call it, makes it porous, and thus you see we have set our seeds where they will be near the air, and fixed them so that they shall be regularly moist.

If flowers have been growing in the ground for many years, new soil does wonders. Rich manure makes flowers grow, but they do not always flower well with vigorous growth. If new soil cannot be had, a wheel-barrow of manure to to about every fifty square feet will be enough. If the garden earth looks gray or yellow, rotten leaves—quite rotten leaves—will improve it. If heavy, add sand. If very sandy, add salt—about half a pint to fifty square feet. If very black or rich from previous years' manurings, use a little lime, about a pint, slacked, to fifty square feet.

If the garden be full of hardy perennial flowers, do not dig it, but use a fork, and that not deeply.

Dig garden soil only when the ground is warm and dry. Do not be in a hurry, or you may get behind. When a clot of earth will crush to powder when you tread on it, it is time to dig—not before.

If perennial plants have stood three years in one place, separate the stools, replacing one-third, and give the balance to your neighbor who has none.

While caring for the flowers, forget not the lawn—that great charm—without which a garden is not worthy of the name.

Our readers all know that the soil should be made as deep as possible, because a deep soil is generally a reservoir of moisture, from which is replaced the waste from the drying surface, under the summer heats, and thus the grass is kept from burning out. But this is not all. Lawns soon become impoverished by exhaustion of the soil, and by continual mowing.—and this has to be provided for. Mowing machines particularly injure lawns, by their very close and continuous cutting. But this must not be an argument against the machines. We cannot do without them. One should be on every lawn of any extent. But we must in some way provide a counter advantage to check the weakening influence which they undoubtedly exert. One of the troubles of close mowing is that the grass is so weakened in vitality that little, low, vile weeds soon advance their forces, and choke out the grass. Allowing the grass to grow up without mowing for a year will give renewed vigor to the grass, and be death to the little pests; but in a year or two the old soil will be as bad as