

1.87 1-2 on paper. Surely this is not the simplicity of decimals.

Correct representation by figures should go hand in hand with a correct system of decimal currency. Even the English duo-decimal system has a more correct mode of being represented in accounts than our much-boasted Nova Scotia has. In England the number of pounds of a sum can be paid in pounds or sovereigns; the number of shillings can be paid in shillings; and the same with the pence column. Take £9. 9s, 8d. for instance, and the figures tell at a glance what coins you require to pay it with; but let the same figures, \$91.38, denote dollars and cents, as with us, and how is it paid? First, we may pay ninety of it with paper or gold, then we pay the one with four shillings, English, with another 1s. 6d. we pay 37 1-2 of the 38, leaving a chance for the payee to cheat the receiver out of the remaining half-cent. Pretty, but complicated.

Now take these same figures, 91.38, and by the system of decimals on the half-sovereign as a gold piece; we should pay the 91 in gold or paper, the 3 in silver, and the 8 in coppers. And just the same simple and pure representation will take place with all sums.

The copper coins will be represented by the units, the silver coins by the tens, and the gold coins by the hundreds and thousands, etc., so that the figures as above would read, 91 golds, 3 silvers, and 8 coppers or cents; or, 91 golds, 38 cents, etc.

By this short and cursory description of what might be effected in the way of obtaining a more perfect and convenient system of decimal currency, you may perhaps be led to agree with me, that our legislators should, at least, look about them and consider the matter carefully, before they commit themselves to any system at present extant.

I remain,

Yours truly,

J. H. HODSON.

Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Original.

WINTER GARDENING.

This delightful and elegant recreation is, in Canada, confined to the conservatory or the house. Few have conservatories, and as those who have must be or employ professional gardeners, we confine our remarks to house culture. This may be carried on in glasses, or in pots and boxes, and with a variety of plants.

There are only two flowers usually cultivated in glasses, namely, Hyacinths and Polyanthus-Narcissus, both of which are remarkably beautiful when they succeed well, but they often fail. The roots will strike down into the water, but the stem will prove abortive; or a short, scorched-looking spike of flowers may perhaps appear, only to decay immediately. The hot, dry atmosphere produced by stoves is very injurious to spring flowers, which require a moist, cool air indoors, similar to that in which they flower naturally in the garden in April and May. Of course there must be stove heat in houses in Canada, but that should be tempered with pans of water continually replenished on every stove, the steam from which renders the air much more wholesome not only for vegetable life, but also for the family.

Experience proves that bulbous plants should be kept in a room in which the air is not made very hot and dry; in which little gas is burned, and in which they can get as much daylight as possible. For this purpose, a bow-window is very advantageous, but any large window will do. When in bloom, however, flowers should be shaded from the sunshine in the middle of the day, in order to continue the longer in their beauty. Flowers in glasses should have the water changed at least once a fortnight.

In view of all the risks and disappointments of growing flowers in glasses, the preferable plan is to grow them in pots and boxes. This is the more natural way, and consequently less liable to failure, and the bulbs are renewed after flowering in pots,