

must be guarded by stakes reaching up to the budded part, which must be tied to them. Without this precaution, some high wind may carry away the whole head, as much to the surprise and annoyance of the proprietor as were felt by John Gilpin when he lost his hat and wig. *H. B.—Gardeners' Chronicle.*

**WILD FLOWERS.**—Young gardeners and others should not neglect any opportunity that may offer in becoming acquainted with our native plants; they will find it both a pleasant and profitable study, if they engage in it heartily. Flowers in great variety are now appearing,

"As if the rainbows of the fresh mild spring  
Had blossomed where they fell."

Mrs. Loudon, in her "Botany for Ladies," remarks: "Indeed, I do not think that I could form a kinder wish for them than to hope that they may find as much pleasure in the pursuit as I have derived from it myself. Whenever I go into any country I have formerly visited, I feel as though I were endowed with a new sense. Even the very banks by the sides of the roads, which I before thought dull and uninteresting, now appear fraught with beauty. A new charm seems thrown over the face of nature, and a degree of interest is given to even the commonest weeds. I have often heard that 'knowledge is power,' and I am quite sure that it contributes greatly to enjoyment. A man knowing nothing of natural history, and of course not caring for anything relating to it, may travel from one extremity of a country to another, without finding anything to interest, or even amuse him. But the man of science, and particularly the botanist, cannot walk a dozen yards along a beaten turnpike road without finding something to excite his attention. A wild plant in a hedge, a tuft of moss on a wall, and even the lichens which discolour the stones, all present objects of interest and of admiration for that Almighty power, whose care has provided the flower to shelter the infant germ, and has laid up a stock of nourishment in the seed to supply the first wants of the tender plant. It has been often said, that the study of nature has a tendency to elevate and ameliorate the mind, and there is perhaps no branch of natural history which more fully illustrates the truth of this remark than botany."

**CULTIVATION OF HARDY PLANTS.**—We have often thought that more attention should be bestowed in the cultivation of hardy plants that would flower at this season (Spring) than is commonly done in most parts of the country. The Peony, for instance, deserves better treatment than it generally receives; the species of the family are, in most cases, easily cultivated, hardy, showy, and flower early. They are commonly put into three divisions—viz., the shrubby, herbaceous, and the pubescent; and some beautiful varieties may be had in each division. One species is a native of Britain, and grows in an island in the Severn; it is noticed by one of our poets in the following lines:—

The cliff, abrupt and high,  
And desolate, and cold, and bleak, uplifts  
Its barren brow. But on its steep  
One native flower is seen—the Peony;  
One flower which smiles in sunshine and in storm.  
There still companionless but yet not sad;  
She has no sister of the summer field;  
None to rejoice with her when spring returns—  
None that in sympathy may bend its head  
When evening winds blow hollow o'er the rock  
In autumn's gloom.

The instructions commonly given to those who may raise them from seed are the following:—Sow the seed immediately after it ripens, in light fresh earth, covering them half an inch. They will come up the following spring, and may remain in the seed-bed two years before they are transplanted, sifting a little rich earth

over them when the leaves decay at the end of the growing season. Having made two years growth in the seed-bed, they are to be planted in September into other well-prepared beds of light fresh earth, and placed six inches asunder every way, and three inches deep. Here they are to remain till they flower, which is generally the fourth or fifth summer after sowing. Full-grown roots are readily propagated by parting, taking care to preserve a bud on the crown of each offset. The plants are very hardy; they will grow in almost any soil and situation; and even under the shade of trees, where Miller says they continue longest in beauty, they make excellent border plants, and form a splendid ornament both to the parterre and shrubbery. They are natives of many parts of the world; the common species, we are told, grows wild in China and Siberia, as well as in various parts of Europe, and is said to be very beautiful on Mount Ida. The handsome flower called the Chinese Tree Peony, *Paeonia moutan*, the flowers of which expand about the end of the month, and are in the different varieties of various tints, is sufficiently hardy to bear the open air of our winters; even the severe frost of last month only injured a few of the leaves of the plants—the flower buds appear to have received little or no injury. We are also informed that the tree Peony is a cherished flower in China, and is said to have been cultivated in the Chinese gardens for fourteen hundred years, and is believed to have been brought originally from some of the mountains of that empire. Some years ago it brought a high price in that country, but can now be had at most of our nurseries at a very reasonable rate.—*Gardener's Journal.*

**PROTECT YOUR VINES.**—We are informed by a gentleman of this town, says the *Lynn News*, of an experiment made by him last year upon his squash vines, which proved successful in clearing off the bugs. He strewed on the vines the bran of pepper, which may be obtained at any of the spice mills where pepper is ground. Every one who has a garden will appreciate the value of a remedy so cheap and simple, and give it a trial. We should like to have those who try the experiment give us the result, if they find it successful.

**SOWING SEED.**—The finer the seed to be sown, the finer should the soil be made which is to receive it.

**LAYERING.**—Very many lovers of flowers have been discouraged from endeavouring to keep some of the most beautiful and easily managed plants, by want of a knowledge of the art of propagation. They find their plants to flourish and blossom well for a season or two; they are delighted with their fragrance or their beauty, but the time for disappointment and regret comes on apace. Perhaps the seeds do not ripen—most double flowers will not produce seeds at all—probably, even when ripe seeds are obtained and sown, after bestowing much attention and care upon the younglings, and watching anxiously, for months, until they come to maturity and expand into bloom, it is found that very inferior varieties have been produced, having little resemblance to the prized parent plant, and ill-rewarding the labor expended. The poor, inexperienced, and mortified florist next undertakes to raise fresh plants by pipings, cuttings, or slips. Raised new plants he must, if he wishes to keep up his stock; for "all that live must die," and the most robust constitution is no security against an early death. The new attempt will in some instances succeed, and if it does, the original variety is perpetuated, with all its characteristics. But one who does not possess the whole paraphernalia of floriculture,—the stove, the green-house, the close frame, the bottom heat, the bell glasses, the matting and shades,—or one who, possessing some of them,