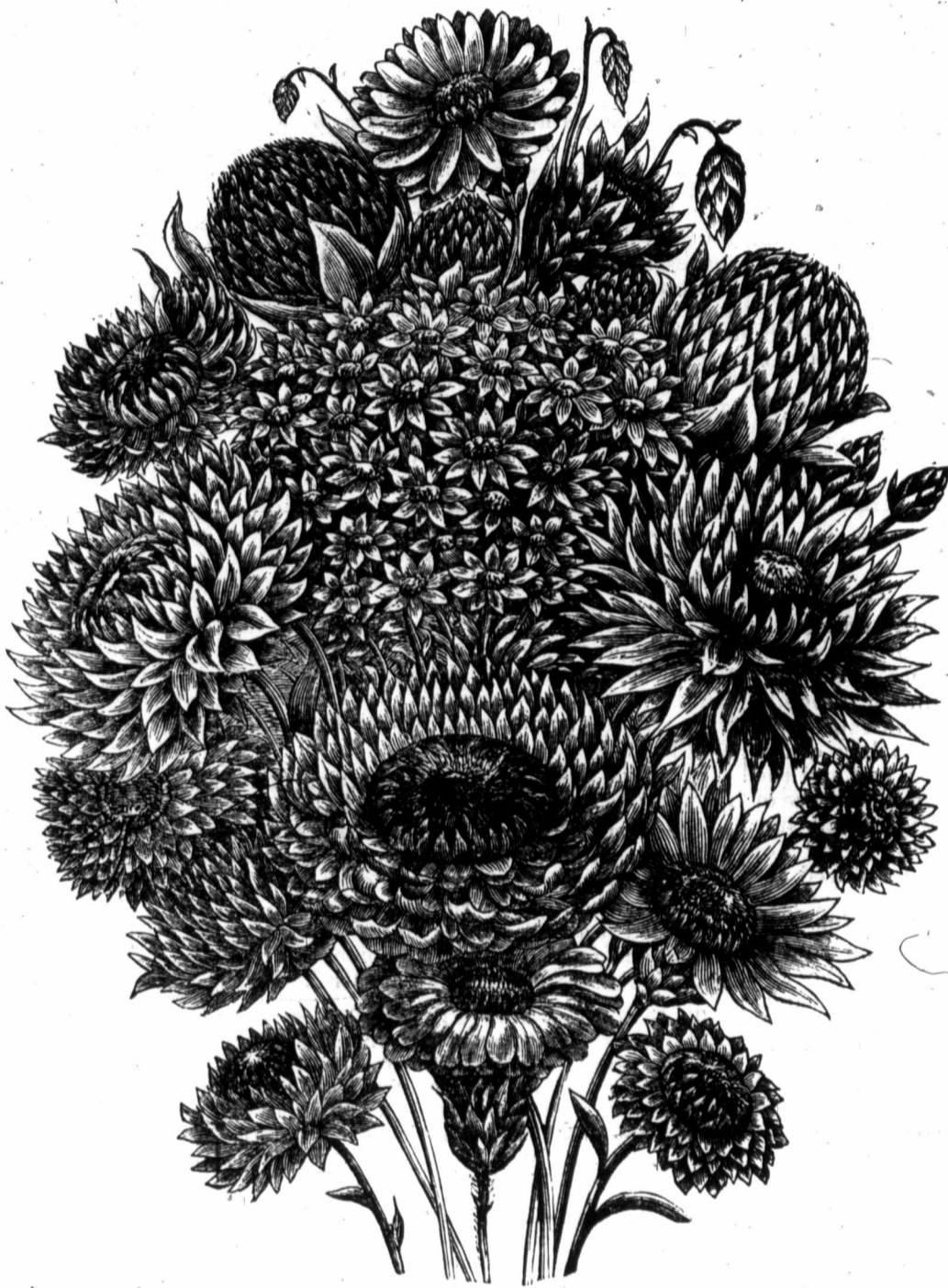


FLOWERS.

We would impress upon our readers the desirability of adorning their houses and gardens with a grape vine. What is there more pleasant after a toiling time in the field in a hot sun, than to sit in the shade and partake of the sweet luscious juice of the grape. We have never met a lady but who took delight in seeing their homestead adorned with flowers. What beauty this adds to the view! How their study will refine and cultivate the taste; but perhaps some of our fair readers may be allied to some husbands and fathers, who look upon the expense of a few packages of seeds as money thrown away, but at the same time they think nothing of spending 25 or 50 cents or even a dollar in a bar-room. But should any of our fair readers be thus situated and wish to have a few choice flower seeds, we ask you only to send us a three cent stamp and we will in these cases send you some gratuitous, in order to encourage the growth of flowers with you. We have been endeavoring to procure the best and most suitable selection of annuals, and hope our lady friends and patrons will have their gardens and windows and walls well decorated, especially as in the coming summer we shall undoubtedly pay some of you a flying and unexpected visit. This may appear strange to you, perhaps, but you must remember that in our peregrinations by railway and steamboat, attending to matters connected with agriculture and the business of our paper, we shall be frequently brought in close proximity to you. What will some of our readers in the Muskoka district or those in California and other parts of the States say, if we should drop in upon them. This is no mere whim of ours. It is amongst our fixed arrangements the coming summer, and viewing these eventualities we ask you to get your gardens in the best possible order, so that we may be able to give you our best commendations and reports. We doubt not on the other hand but that you are doing your best to make your homes cheerful and pleasant, and have reason to believe that you have difficulties to encounter, but remember you are not by yourselves; we likewise have had a hard up hill game to play, to establish our paper and emporium ideas, especially when we say that we have had \$100,000 expended against us and our undertaking. But we have the Canadian motto, "Industry," and this with indomitable perseverance, will, we are certain, eventually lead us to the top of the tree. We ask your support, and hope you will aid us with your advice and suggestions, which we shall always receive with thanks, and it will have our best and earliest attention.

LIME IN SOIL.—There is said to be carried off from the soil nine pounds of lime in twenty bushels of wheat, nine pounds in fifty bushels of oats, and fifteen pounds in thirty-eight bushels of barley. There are thirty-five pounds of lime in two tons of clover, one hundred and forty pounds in twenty-five tons of turnips, and two hundred and seventy pounds in nine tons of potatoes. Some soils contain an abundance of lime for a thousand years, while other soils require an occasional application of lime as a fertilizer.



EVERLASTING FLOWERS.

We wish to encourage the cultivation of flowers, and, therefore give you representations occasionally. The above cut was kindly forwarded to us by Mr. Vick of Rochester, whose far-famed name as a seedsman and florist is well-known. These Everlasting Flowers we much prize. We raised some last year in our garden, without the aid of glass or hot-bed, and hope you may do so if you have no hot-bed. They look well in summer while growing, but their value principally consists in retaining their color, which they do for years. If you have no plants growing yourselves, we hope to be able to supply you with packages of plants of choice kinds. See our price list.

THE GARDENS OF GREECE.

Modern society can scarcely form a conception of the extent to which flowers were cultivated in Greece, not merely for the sake of their beauty when beheld in the garden, but on account of the immense use made of them in religious ceremonies, as well as in the circumstances of daily life. The lover crowned himself with flowers when he went to visit his mistress, hung garlands of flowers upon her door, and adorned with wreaths the statues of the divinities who were supposed

to preside over love and marriage. Scarcely any one entered a temple uncrowned, and according to the character of the deity worshipped there, the flowers of the wreath were changed. Again, when the Athenian repaired to the theatre, which contained an audience of twenty or thirty thousand persons, nearly every one wore a garland on his head. At private parties, likewise, when they dined or drank together, their brows were decked with flowers, while the apartments in some instances were covered so deeply with roses that they reclined upon them as upon sofas. This taste, which prevailed more or less throughout the whole country, as well as in Magna Grecia, Sicily and Asia Minor, may convey some idea of the extent of floral cultivation, which everywhere constituted an important branch of industry, just as the cultivation of roses still does in Central Egypt and the northern provinces of India. In these Eastern countries vast quantities of roses are needed for the manufacture of otto, the most lasting and delicate perfume ever invented by man. In the present day, the Greeks convert roses to several uses not much thought of in the West. At Athens, for example is made a conserve of roses, imported occasionally into England, which may be reckoned among the most delicate articles of luxury that can be imagined, being equally remarkable for taste and scent, as well as for its power of stimulating digestion and promoting health.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Trees and shrubs recently planted, if the weather become dry, should be watered and mulched with coarse litter of any sort, or manure if the ground need it.

Evergreens may be properly transplanted whenever they begin to grow. They should be removed with the utmost care, having as much dirt with the roots as practicable. Water after planting, and occasionally afterwards, at the roots and over the foliage.

Roses need abundant watering, and should have the foliage sprinkled too every evening in dry weather, if full flowering be desired.