



FIG. 1474.—A SCENE IN EARLY SPRING.

WINTER PROTECTION.

WHEREVER grape vines and blackberries and raspberry bushes need covering up to save them in winter, rose bushes are benefitted by it also. We save those vines and canes by laying them down in their rows and burying them over with earth. This also is an excellent way to protect roses. But when we grow roses closely in beds this is not always practicable. What then shall we do?

First, see to it that the ground about where the roses are growing is so well drained that no water can lodge or ice form there in winter. Secondly, in order to have good roses in June, we most prune our bushes well back in spring. As these bushes are now pretty big and have long stout canes standing up to the blast it would be well to shorten these canes to one-half or two-

thirds their length, but not nearly short enough to equal spring pruning, to render them easier to handle and give us less to cover up. Then bend them over as flat to the ground as you can with the canes leaning all one way and lengthwise in the bed but their ends a little inclined to the middle, and fasten them in this way with hooked pegs or a few plaster laths laid across them and nailed or tied to pegs. They are then ready for covering up. Be careful now. Plants are seldom hurt by frost in the first of the winter; the great trouble comes after January. By covering up extra early you render your plants far more tender than they would be did you not cover till late. Have everything ready in good time, however, and before the frost takes a hold of the ground because you can do the work so much better and handier then than