

OUR FLOWER PAGE.

SUMMER BOUQUETS.

WHEN the early summer flowers first begin to warm the hearts of true flower lovers by their beauty and abundance, the sweet temptation is to place them everywhere. Every bowl and vase, every table, mantel, and window-seat, is gay with their bloom. A few flowers lend brightness to any room; we say, therefore, more will increase the pleasure, and so we heap up the treasures with a lavish hand.

But before the season of flowers is many weeks old the house-keeper has learned a lesson which was presented to her and also learned last season, and which she will again forget at the close of this summer. Flowers everywhere, on the dining table, in hall, parlor, library, and guest-room, mean just so much added care everywhere, for the beauties are very fragile and demand constant attention. Not a day can pass without some change or replenishing. With a basket for wilted flowers and leaves, strong scissors to clip the stems, and a pitcher of clear water to fill up the vases, some one should each morning pay a visit to each room where bouquets are found, otherwise an unsightly mass of withered vegetation is the result. It is well to remember these facts when luxuriant bloom tempts to multiplicity of bouquets. Better a slender vase with a single fresh flower and a delicate supply of foliage constantly renewed, than a mass of flowers for whose replenishing and freshening there is likely to be no time.

The old-time notion of arranging in one compact bunch flowers of every shape and color is now, fortunately, but seldom seen. Flowers of a single variety and color, with or without foliage, are generally more gratifying to the eye than a miscellaneous collection. A brilliant loose-clustered bouquet of yellow, red, or blue flowers, tastefully placed with suitable background and surroundings, is a charming bit of decoration which appeals to the taste of all lovers of the beautiful.

A window-ledge in full light furnishes an excellent place for a low bowl of roses or nasturtiums. Nothing more effectively displays flowers than the light in which they were born and which they love. The delicate petals are doubly brilliant in color and delightful in outline in full strong light or sunshine. Low-growing, short-stemmed flowers require low bowls. The same is often true of heavy strong flowers. Tall long-stemmed flowers are at their best in tall slender vases or large receptacles of some sort. Plain glass vases, which allow the stems to be seen are very effective for nearly all high-colored flowers. If a colored vase is used it should be of one tint. The many-colored abominations of a few years ago ruin the effectiveness of a bouquet. Delicate flowers look well in tinted vases, as a cluster of Maréchal Niel roses in a pale blue vase, or a handful of La France buds or pink carnations in a pink bowl or vase. A solid white or brown or bronze bowl is an excellent foil for the brilliant colors of nasturtiums and poppies. A silver vase forms an exquisite setting for a cluster of brilliant, high-colored flowers, and is always an acceptable wedding or birthday gift.

For the centre of a dining-table a free-blooming plant is a good selection. The porous earthen pot in which it thrives best may be concealed in something ornamental. Fresh foliage and a few flowers make it always an acceptable ornament, and insensibly the family becomes interested in its growth and flowering.

No flower is so welcome at the breakfast table, and so sure to awaken smiles and good-humor as the old-fashioned, always new morning-glory. The crossiest face is almost sure to grow tender over the delicate pink, purple, blue, or white spray found in the napkin-ring. There is something in the pure fine texture of the dainty bell, whether rose pink with white veinings, deep rich purple with a suggestion of crimson, fair blue, or fragile white, which appeals to any person of taste and sensibility. Unfortunately the morning-glory is short-lived as the day, and breathes out the whole sum of its beauty in a brief hour. A flower lover of my acquaintance gathers the buds overnight, puts them in water, and so is always sure of a handful of blossoms to place at each plate in the morning, whatever the weather or the state of the cook's temper, or other kitchen demands on her time.

The yellow eschscholtzia, or California poppy, is one of the freest bloomers, and most satisfactory for purposes of adornment and decoration, of all annual summer flowers. Its abundant, delicate, many-pinnate blue-green leaves are useful for bouquets of any sort, while it numerous yellow shades, from the faintest buff to the deepest orange, supply enough variety for innumerable summer bouquets. They need no combination. Their own glowing colors, with or without foliage, are sufficient.

Sweet pease in their original native costume of pink and white, bachelor's buttons, calliopsis, forget-me-not, mignonette, nasturtiums, pansies, and a half-dozen other well-known varieties are still the best choice for reliable summer bouquets, and well repay the care spent in their cultivation.

The large family of invalids whose eyes may not look on out-door scenes should always be remembered when making up summer bouquets. A box or basket of cut flowers loosely, not compactly, placed for convenience in handling, is often more acceptable than a carefully arranged bouquet. Weak fingers and weary eyes are glad of an employment so easy and pleasant as the arrangement and study of a cluster of bright flowers, fragrant and cheering, and an hour that might otherwise have been spent in sad, disturbed thoughts of pain and disease is charmed into brightness by a thoughtful friend with treasures from the garden.

Flowers for the sick; flowers for the happy; flowers for the church, and flowers for the home; flowers for the living, and flowers for the dead; for the maid at the bridal, and for the mourner at the grave—what other of all nature's gifts is so generously used and so certain of a welcome?

A PRETTY idea at a recent floral wedding was to have the bridesmaids carry dainty parasols completely covered with fragrant blossoms, the ushers bearing wands decorated in like manner.

THE True Bermuda Easter Lily (*Lilium Harrisii*). Pure, pearly white, deliciously fragrant, and a remarkable profusion of bloom characterize this charming and celebrated Easter Lily. It is one of the grandest acquisitions made in many years. Its popularity and sales have increased wonderfully and deservedly, for, without exception, it is one of the most valuable bulbs for winter flowering in the house. A profusion of bloom may be had at Christmas by planting the bulbs before the first of August. Thanks are due The Steele Bro's Co. for information and cut.



THE TRUE BERMUDA EASTER LILY.