

FLORAL MAGNIFICENCE.

The New York *Home Journal* gives this description of the floral magnificence at the marriage of a daughter of William M. Tweed, in that city, recently: "The decorations certainly surpassed any attempt of the kind at a similar entertainment ever given in this city. The staircase, ceilings, chandeliers, mirrors, doors, ornaments, and furniture, were garlanded and festooned most profusely with choice flowers and magnificent floral bells, and on every hand exotics, wreaths and overgreens were artistically displayed. Indeed, the interior of the house presented rather the appearance of an enchanted palace, so beautiful did it look, and the sense of smell was so delightful that the illusion was kept up with little imagination. In the front parlor, almost obscuring the two front windows, the designers had constructed an arbor, in which the bride and groom received the congratulations of their friends. It was composed of 2,000 camellias and daphnes, callas and violets in unlimited numbers. The arbor was crowned with a shield of scarlet carnations, topped with a monogram, M. T., formed of tuberose. In front of this, and separating the parlors, hung a marriage bell, from a massive arch of flowers, with festoons falling on each other. At the rear of the parlors, two very large floral harps were stationed, screening the musicians. The decoration of the staircase was a very effective piece of work. Being spiral in construction, a person standing on the lowest floor could see to the very roof of the house, when, to use an expression of one of the guests, you were reminded of a tropical mountain in full bloom. Of course, all these flowers were not raised in or near New York. The greenhouses of Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore were ransacked for the occasion. One may get an idea of the exhibition when we say that it brought into use 10,000 camellias, 100,000 primroses, 25,000 white azalias, and 2,000 heads of daphnes. The collection, altogether, was probably the finest gathering of exotics brought together in one house. Forty men and boys were occupied some days in preparing the frame-work, and they were all engaged during the whole of Tuesday night in arranging the flowers."

GRAFTING THE GRAPE.

E. A. Riehl stated before a recent meeting of the Alton Horticultural Society, that he had grafted grapes in the open ground with uniform success—as much so as in grafting an orchard. H. G. McPike had been equally successful by using the same method, with the exception of doing it in autumn. D. L. Hall had entirely failed in autumn grafting, but had succeeded well in spring. The following is Mr. Riehl's mode:—

My method is to saw or cut off the vine from

four to six inches under ground. The stock I split with a thin bladed knife, being careful to cut rather than split. I make the split as near the centre of the stock as possible, and am very careful to have the bark of stock and scion fit nice at one point at least. The stock will usually hold the scion firm enough without trying; if not, I tie with a string but never wax the grape. The earth is then firmly pressed about the scion up to the top bud; a little saw dust put on the top to protect the bud and keep the earth from baking, and the thing is done. I prefer early spring; it is cleft grafting under ground; my scions are from four to six inches long.

HARDY FRUITS.

In answer to a correspondent, who enquires for the hardiest varieties of fruit, the Horticultural Editor of the *Country Gentleman* furnishes the following list:

Apples.—Sops of Wine, Red Astrachan, Autumn Strawberry, Fall Orange, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Fameuse, St. Lawrence, Golden Russet, of (Western N. Y.) Northern Spy, Wagener.

Pears.—Buffum, Urbaniste, Anjou, Fulton, Lawrence, Winter Nelis.

Crabs.—Transcendent, Hyslop.

Grapes.—Hartford Prolific, Concord, Delaware, Adirondac (covered in winter).

Cherries.—Early Richmond, Mayduke, Large Morello.

Plums.—Schenectady Catherine, Lombard, McLaughlin.

Raspberries.—Philadelphia, Black Cap.

Strawberries.—Wilson's

Blackberries.—Kittatinny.

Currants.—Red Dutch, White Dutch, White Grape, Versailles.

HOW TO HAVE PLUMS EVERY YEAR.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says:—Our plum trees are loaded with good fruit every year that we observe the following directions: Put about a bushel of green manure around the root of each tree, one bushel chip manure on the stable manure, and then a peck of wood ashes on the manure as soon as the snow is off. Last year there were no plums on trees in this neighbourhood except ours. I do not know the names of the sorts we have, but they are some of them pale yellow with a little pink on the sunny side, some red with a yellow shade on under side of the fruit, and some dark yellow, with red irregular marks on them. The trees stand on a hillside facing east, and have red currant bushes between them. We see many plums drop off, stung by the curculio, but plenty remain on the trees and ripen. I think it a pity that those who have trees should not have plums.