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One short season and they have finished their life-work. Yet in that short time how much they have done. What beauty and brightness they have given to the home; how many heavy hearts have they cheered, or added pleasure to hours of joy, and given new grace and loveliness even to that already lovely. Places that otherwise were bare they have clothed with beauty, and the evening air has been laden with their sweet perfume. Short has been their life, the summer days have quickly gone, autumn frosts come all too soon, and the bright flowers are blighted and blackened and perished. No, not too soon; that they were to do has been fully done. Let us learn the lesson they teach. December has come. The December of life is coming. *Will the life-work have been fully done?*

But the Annuals, the summer flowers: in spring we sow the seed, and in a few days they are gladdening our eyes with their beauty. Endless in variety of form and of color, in their adaptation to soil and location, if we but choose aright we may have them everywhere; some prefer to grow in the shade, others in the sunshine; some like a cool, clayey soil, others thrive

best in the hot sand; so that by giving to each the soil and location best suited to their habits we can have flowers to ornament the home, whatever may be the soil or exposure. The variety we now have from which to choose is almost without limit, and one has only to consult any of our seedsmen's catalogues to select those whose habit, season of flowering, and color commend them to notice. In such a paper as this it is possible only to call attention to a few of the many beautiful things that one might plant.

*The Abronia* is a valuable creeping plant, preferring a light sandy soil and the full blaze of the sun from morn till night. Its habit and general appearance and manner of flowering are much like those of the Verbena. The flowers are sweet scented, having a waxy appearance, and are produced in great profusion from June until the frost kills the plants. There are some three or four varieties, distinguished by different names; *Abronia arenaria* has yellow flowers; *A. unbellata* and *A. fragrans* produce blooms of a pale rose color. The seed may be sown late in the fall, just before the ground freezes, or in spring as soon as it has become