

adaptability in old tree stubs and the prevailing sizes of tubs and barrels to the convenience of their owners. The perpendicular sides of tubs are objectionable, and there seems to be nothing in the ready-made circular style of receptacles between sugar barrels and hogsheads, except lard barrels. These come nicely hooped at the ends with bark-covered hoops.

The section used in this case measures six feet in circumference, and the tree stub about four, with an entire height of three and a half feet, which makes a fairly well proportioned vase, with little expense or labor. To insure durability this barrel was charred inside, and good drainage secured by boring holes in the bottom near the edge. The soil for the class of plants used must be rich in all the good things which horticultural knowledge can supply, and a liberal supply of water given every day, which is, in fact, all the care required after the plants are placed.

The beauty of any such arrangement depends largely upon the selection and disposal of the plants. The combination shown in the illustration is particularly happy. Two common green cannas were planted a little back of the center, while in front and between the other two is a bronze-red variety, with a bright yellow coleus on either side of it as an excellent foil to throw out its color, and a dash of blue lobelia in front and between the two; these, with caladiums placed on either side and at the back, and given a red relief of coleus plants, form a rich and artistic mass of color, greatly heightened by the soft gray and brown beneath it. The artful bit of drapery at the side adds to the picturesque effect, but was only a subterfuge to hide the bare place on the stump where a boy indiscreetly pulled off the loose bark instead of nailing it back in place. A strip of poultry netting tacked across prevents further pulling of the bark, and supports the morning glories and nasturtiums. *Ampelopsis quinquefolia* is also growing at the base, and is eventually expected to take the place of both, which will be desirable because of its permanency. The cannas, caladiums and coleus have had a glorious time all summer; a more luxuriant growth would be hard to find; the cannas reached a height of four feet, and the red blossoms looked beautiful in the air nearly eight feet above the green grass at the base of the stump.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Japan Maples.—The maples from Japan are likely to become as popular in this country, in time, as the chrysanthemums have been for the last few years. They are especially adapted by their diminutive size and brilliancy of colors to garden decoration. The Japs use them in this way. Where a change of color is desired in their gardens, a pot is sunk in the ground, and one of the richly colored maples planted. The fine, delicate, fern-shaped leaves of some of the varieties make a grand display at a short distance off, when the lacy veining of the leaves can be seen traced in all their beauty. Other varieties, where the colors are more solid and the leaves larger, look better when at a longer distance. They make a good foreground for lawn scenes, and have a grand effect in small parks.—Vick's Magazine for December.