

TORONTO HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL CLUB.

KITCHEN GARDENS.

The Second regular meeting for discussion of this Club was held on Tuesday, 18th March. There was a moderate attendance of gentlemen present; the President, Mr. Allan, and several other leading members being unfortunately absent from unavoidable causes. Mr. James Fleming, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair. The subject for discussion, "The importance of Kitchen Gardens as an appendage to Farm Houses" was introduced by Mr. Mundie, Landscape Gardener, of this city, whose interesting paper we regret we cannot insert in full. Our space will enable us to give the *practical* directions, only. The introductory remarks on the value and importance of the garden and its products, as well as the concluding arguments by which Mr. M. enforced his theme, were exceedingly well put. Those who may wish to see the entire paper will find it in the *Colonist* of 22nd March.

A kitchen garden of the present day, may be defined as a piece of land fenced in and set apart for the growth of vegetables, roots, herbs, and small fruits for cooking or kitchen purposes, as the name of the garden implies. The term small fruits, comprehends the various sorts of gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, &c.

In choosing a piece of land to lay out a kitchen garden, the situation should not be very flat nor very elevated. In very low or flat situations, the moisture of the atmosphere renders the crops of all sorts more liable to be injured by frost, and on very high land the cutting winds of spring and early summer are also injurious; the blossom and young fruit are often damaged, as also the leaves of tender vegetables and plants of all descriptions, when in a young and growing state.

A piece of moderately light land, sloping very gently towards the South or South-East, avoiding the extremes of situation mentioned above, will under good management give every satisfaction. A point to the East will give increased earliness.

The farmers', or country kitchen garden, (and of which I am more particularly speaking) should be near the dwelling house, and should occupy a position if otherwise applicable, partly between the dwelling and barn or stock yard. If so situated, it will be convenient to manure, convenient for gathering vegetables at all times, and also convenient to cultivate, allowing every half hour to be employed to the best advantage.

The size of the garden should be regulated according to the wants of the family; for a family of six persons, half an acre will not be too much, and for any larger number the ground may be increased in proportion; always bearing in mind, that a small garden requiring to be crowded, is more difficult to keep than a larger space where there is room for proper regulation and rotation.

The shape of the garden may be adapted to existing circumstances, but if otherwise applicable, a quadrangular, or an oblong square can be cropped and cultivated to more advantage than irregular forms, which should only be adopted in case of necessity, either from the lay of the land or other difficulties which cannot be controlled.

The fencing is better to be close, to the North side, and partly so on the East and West ends; a shelter of trees outside the garden fence on the North side, North-East, and North-West corners, should be raised as soon as possible. The different kinds of evergreen trees (such as the balsam fir, the Norway spruce, the hemlock spruce, and the different varieties of cedar) will best answer the purpose at least those trees next the fence should be of this kind. They give most shelter at the time when it is most wanted, and their roots and branches are not so troublesome in undermining or overhanging the borders, as deciduous trees, or those trees which throw their leaves every season.

The first step towards the cultivation of the space which may thus have been set apart and fenced for a kitchen garden, is, to drain it thoroughly; some situations and soils there are which may not require the operation, but those are rare exceptions; and as a general rule, mostly all soils will be benefited by draining. The extent to which this may be necessary, must be determined by the nature of the soil to be operated upon; however, there is no fear of overdoing, as the more drains there are put in, the nearer perfection will the garden be; and on no account should draining be neglected when the garden is laying out, as if once it is planted and furnished, draining cannot be done so