

## THE LADIES.

## THE BACHELOR'S COMPLAINT.

Returning home at close of day,  
Who gently chides my long delay,  
And by my side delights to stay?  
Nobody.

Who sets for me the easy chair,  
Sets out the room with neatest care,  
And lays my slippers ready there?  
Nobody.

Who regulates the cheerful fire,  
And piles the blazing fuel higher,  
And bids me draw my chair still nigher?  
Nobody.

When plunged in dire and deep distress,  
And anxious cares my heart oppress,  
Who whispers hopes of happiness?  
Nobody.

When anxious thoughts within me rise,  
In sore dismay my spirit dies,  
Who soothes me by their kind replies?  
Nobody.

When sickness racks my feeble frame,  
And grief distracts my fevered brain,  
Who sympathizes with my pain?  
Nobody.

Then I'll resolve, so help me Fate,  
To change at once the single state,  
And will to Hymen's altar take—  
Somebody.

## PLANTING.

Planting is the operation of inserting plants in the soil, either in the free ground or in pots. The simplest kind of planting is that which consists in removing small seedling plants, or such as have been struck from cuttings or layers; and this is commonly performed by making a round hole with a dibber, and putting in the root of the plant to the same depth as it had been covered with earth before, and making it fast by thrusting the dibber into the firm earth beside the hole, and pressing it to the root. In this operation, the great art is to make the root fast at the lower extremity. Thus, in planting common seedlings of annuals, or even cabbage plants, if the earth be pressed close to the root at the upper part, and not at the extreme points, the success will hardly be complete; and in tender plants, or in a dry season, a failure will be the result. In planting plants of a larger size, a small pit should be opened by the spade or trowel; the bottom of the pit having been formed into a cone or small hill, the plant should be placed in the centre, and the roots spread out equally over it on every side. The roots are then to be covered with soil gently pressed over them; and the operation must be finished by watering, so as to consolidate the soil equally, without making it firmer on one part of the roots than another. If the soil should have been previously dug, trenched, or loosened to the depth of a foot, or probably two feet or three feet, the pit should not be made so deep as to throw the neck or collar of the plant below, or even on a level with the surface, when the soil is consolidated by watering. On the contrary, it must be left of such a height above it, as that when the soil is finally consolidated by its own gravity, influenced by the weather, the neck shall still be above the general surface of the ground, and the plant stand on a small hillock. This condition of planting cannot be too carefully attended to; for nothing can be more injurious to transplanted plants than having the neck buried more than it was in a natural state. Nothing is more common than too-deep planting; and the temptation to it is the greater, because deep planted plants, from having the roots more accessible to moisture, are more certain of growing the first year, and are in less of want of mulching to exclude the heat and drought, and of staking to prevent them from being moved by the wind. Hence, in planting trees or shrubs, it is of the greatest importance, not only with a view to their future growth, but also to their natural appearance above the surface, to have them planted on little hillocks, greater or less in height, according as the soil may have been moved to a greater or less depth, either in the operation of digging the pit in firm soil, or in planting in soil which has been moved by digging, or trenching, or otherwise. In small gardens it is generally desirable, for the sake of producing immediate effect, to plant plants of considerable size; and in this case, in addition to the precautions which have been already mentioned, it is desirable to plant by what is called fixing with water. This operation is performed in the following manner: the hole being properly prepared, the plant placed in it,

and the roots spread out on every side, and extended as far as they will go, one person holds the plant upright, a second sprinkles earth over the roots, and a third supplies water from a watering-pot, with a rose on, if the plant be small, and without a rose, if it be a tree of six feet or eight feet in height, holding the pot as high above his head as his arms will reach. The weight of the water coming down from such a height, consolidates the soil about the roots, and fixes them in such a manner, as to render the plant, if it has been carefully taken up, almost in the same state as it was in before removing. Large trees or shrubs, if planted in this manner in the autumn, and staked, where there is danger from high winds, will grow, and even flower and fruit, the following year, as well as if they had not been removed. In this kind of planting, with large plants, the hillock, left after the operation is finished, should not be less than a foot or eighteen inches above the surrounding surface; and to lessen evaporation during the ensuing summer, the hillock, should, if possible, be covered with short litter, moss, turf turned upside down, or even small stones, for the first year. In staking large plants of this kind, the stakes should be placed close to the stem of the plant, in which position they are much less likely to injure the fibrous roots, than when placed at a distance from the tree; and the stakes should be made fast to the stem of the plant, by a piece of straw or hay rope, or by a piece of twisted matting, or any kind of cord; the part of the stem to which the stake is tied, having previously had a small handful of straw, or moss, or mat, bound round it, to prevent the tie from galling the bark of the stem, and preventing its increase during summer. These stakes should remain for a year, or sometimes two years, according to the size of the plant and its facility of making roots. In general, the sooner the stakes are taken away the better; because the motion of the stem by the wind, is essential to its increasing in thickness. In this matter much must be left to the discretion of the planter, who must always bear in mind that a staked plant is in a most unnatural position; and also that if the tree should lean somewhat to one side for some years after planting, it will ultimately become more or less erect; and that a strong, vigorous-looking plant leaning a little to one side, affords a greater evidence of its being secure and in sound health, than a straight, erect plant, kept in that position by a stake. In the case of planting trees with stems three or four inches in diameter, in exposed situations, two or three stakes may be used, placed at a short distance from the base of the stem and leaning towards it; and where they are made fast, they should be joined by matting, hay-ropes, or some other soft material, so as not to injure or confine the bark. Before transplanting trees of a timber size, the main roots are frequently cut at the distance of five feet or six feet from the stem, a year previously to transplanting; in consequence of which, they send out fibres which in the course of the summer become small roots, so that when transplanted, the tree, instead of drawing its principal nourishment from spongioles at the distance of twenty feet or perhaps thirty feet from the stem, is enabled to draw it from the distance of six or eight feet, and thus to continue growing, though not with the same degree of vigor as if it had not been transplanted. Some kinds of trees, when of a large size, such as the Sycamore, the Lime, the Horse-chestnut, and a few others, may be transplanted without this precaution; but in this case, the operation must be performed in autumn, as soon as the leaves have dropped, in order to give the roots time to form some fibres during the winter; and the greater the distance from the stem at which the roots are cut, the greater will be the success. Large trees with wide-spreading roots when transplanted, seldom require to be staked, because the roots form a broad base, which prevents the stem from being blown to one side. Where there is danger anticipated from high winds, the tree may be secured by three guy-ropes tied to the upper part of the stem, and made fast to stakes driven into the ground at such a distance from the tree as that the ropes may form an angle with the ground of 45°; or the stronger roots may be kept in their position by stakes driven into the ground with their heads beneath the surface of the soil, the main roots being made fast to them by cords.

WIVES AND CARPETS.—In the selection of a carpet, you should always prefer one with small figures, for the two webs of which the fabric consists are always more closely interwoven than in carpeting where large figures are wrought. There is a good deal of true philosophy in this, that will apply to matters widely different from the selection of carpets. A man commits a sad mistake when he selects a wife that cuts too great a figure or the great green carpet of life; in other words makes much display. The attraction fades out, the wear of life becomes worn and weak, and all the gay figures that seemed so charming at first, disappear like summer flowers at autumn. Many a man has made himself flimsy linsey woolsey of himself, by striving to weave too large a figure, and found himself worn out, used up, and like an old carpet hanging on the fence, before he has lived out half his allotted days of usefulness. Many a man wears out his carpet that is never swept, by the dust of insolency; like the same carpet, he needs shaking or whipping; he needs activity, something to think of, something to do. Look out for the large figures, and there are those who stowed away in the garret of the world, awaiting their final consignement to the cellar, who had they practiced this bit of carpet philosophy, would to-day be firm and bright as a Brussels from the loom, and everybody exclaiming, it is wonderful how well they do it!