

two are unnatural, and therefore hardly worth considering, while the third is the only rational way out of our dilemma. Make a fair amount of labor expended on a farm yield a fair amount of comforts of life in return, and our overcrowded cities will soon be relieved of their surplus population.

The beet sugar industry will, in more than one way, help to bring the good old times back to us. Can any one of those who feel called upon to discourage its introduction, and call its pioneers humbugs, point out to the public any branch of farming which really pays, into which any man could put money and have safe and sure returns? Look at the dairy farmers, still worse, or at grain raisers, while fattening cattle is altogether wasting money, investing a dollar to get 75 cents back, and have hard work in the bargain.

Without remunerative farming no lasting national prosperity; without rational cultivation of the soil, no remunerative farming is possible. Where the beet sugar industry flourishes, farming naturally does flourish also, the two are one and inseparable, as every country in Europe proves. Why then not foster them? You cannot help one without helping the other; success in either, means once more prosperity to the whole nation.

ERNEST TH. GENNERT.

Alvarado, California, April 21.

BEET SUGAR AGAIN AND AGAIN.

THE following items show that the Beet Sugar enterprise is being taken hold of in several of the New England States:—

Beet raising is attracting much attention since the sugar experiment has been entered upon in Maine. We understand that some of the leading farmers of Hampshire County in this State, sent a delegate to Portland to inform himself as to beet culture and sugar manufacture, and report as to whether the sugar beet can be profitably raised and sugar made in the Connecticut valley. The beet is already raised there in small quantities and there is a growing opinion that enough will be raised to run a sugar factory if the necessary capital is forthcoming.

This reminds us that the farmers of Rockingham Co., N. H., are also moving in the matter of beet sugar, and have made arrangements for a series of lectures on the subject by Dr. U. B. Blackwell of Maine. Large quantities of imported sugar beet seed have been received, to be issued to the farmers by the Portsmouth Grange for planting in this vicinity. This organization proposes to offer liberal premiums for the largest and best growths of the same.

Boston parties have been making inquiries as to the facilities offered for starting a beet sugar factory in the vicinity of

Northampton, and whether the farmers could guarantee a sufficient supply of beets in case a factory is started at once. The farmers feel that it is not too late for that enterprise to succeed this year, and there are local capitalists who are ready to share in the investment in case the Boston men appear. A meeting of the Northampton farmers, to hear an address from Dr. Blackwell, on beet sugar making, was to be held at the town hall, April 12.—*Agriculturist*.

NOTES FROM THE RURAL GROUNDS.

EULALIA JAPONICA ZEBRINA is one of the few novelties that has proven of great value. It is one of the hardiest and most striking of grasses, and has here passed three winters in safety without any protection.

"FASCINATION."—This new *Coleus*, offered this season for the first time, is really beautiful, and seems to merit all that the descriptions in catalogues claim—which is phenomenal.

In light soil, plant the corms of *Gladioli*, if large, six inches deep. This will so support the flowering stalk that it will need no stake, unless growing in an exposed situation. A mulch of old barnyard manure, applied about the first of July, will be found to increase the size and durability of the flowers. Scarifying the surface of choice bulbs will induce the formation of bulbets which will bloom the second year and bear flowers true to the parent name.

CUT FLOWERS.—For a bed of flowers to make bouquets from during the season, few plants are better than *Verbenas* and *Pinks*. Of the latter, *Hedderwigii*, *Dindem-flowered*, *Cut-leaved* and the Chinese double are the best. They will bloom (if the seeds are sown early) during the summer, and by the aid of a little protection will again bloom freely another year. *Verbenas* may be bought for seventy-five cents per dozen, which, if pegged down, will soon fill a bed six feet in diameter. No other colors are more brilliant than those of choice *Verbenas*. Both the flower itself and its freshness of color endure well. Years ago, thousands were propagated and sold where one is now. But we can do no better than to apologize for our neglect and restore the plant to its old favor.

PANSIES.—The secret of large Pansies, like that of large Strawberries, is rich soil, good drainage and moisture. Both are benefited if they escape the mid-day sun. There are many pretty bedding flowers from which to choose, but we should feel lost without Pansies—they are to the garden what the clown is to the circus.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS.—Fashion, like history, repeats itself, and glad are we that there is on every hand a disposition to return to hardy herbaceous flowers. One tires of ribbon beds. They are expensive and monotonous. They are showy—that is all—and it is showiness maintained at a wicked cost. Herbaceous plants give us an endless variety of form and color, and they bloom from earliest spring till latest fall. When once planted, they are planted for years, and need no further care than the circle of earth about a tree. Those of our readers who are yet poor and lazy, and fond of a pretty garden, are advised to procure hardy herbaceous plants. The following are a few which we have selected as suitable for general cultivation:

Phalangium Lillago, *Anemone Japonica* and *fulgens*, all of the *Aquilegia*, *Dicentra eximia* and *spectabilis* (Bleeding Heart), *Ipomoea leptophylla*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Aster Novæ-Angliæ*, *Delphinium azureum* and *formosum*, *Astilbe Japonica*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Centranthus ruber* (Jupiter's Beard), *Gentiana Andrewsii*, *Chelone obliqua* (Turtle-head), *Clematis recta*, *Gillenia trifoliata*, *Convallaria majalis* (Lily of the Valley), *Coreopsis lanceolata*, *Iris Kämpferi*, *Cypripedium spectabile* (for boggy places), *Funkia ovata* and *subcordata* (blue and white Day Lily), *Liatris* (Blazing Star) *scariosa* and *punctata*, *Lobelia cardinalis* and *syphilitica* (Cardinal Flowers), *Lychnis Chalcadonica* (Maltese Cross), *Lysimachia Nummularia* (Moneywort), for vases, carpets or rockwork; *Mertensia Virginica* (Virginia Lungwort), *Yucca filamentosa* and *angustifolia*, *Vinca minor* (Periwinkle), which will make a beautiful evergreen carpet where grass will not grow; *Spirea Aruncus* (Goat's Beard), *Sedum Sieboldii* (Siebold's Stonecrop), *Pyrethrum telikatchewii*, which will cover the soil if too poor for grass; but it ought to be in every collection on account of the sweetness of its specific name, if for no other reason; an assortment of the French Lilacs (*Philoxes*), *Pentstemons*.—*Rural New Yorker*.

[*Sedum Sieboldii* is not hardy.]

CANNING VEGETABLES.

SWEET CORN.

Corn is considered one of the most difficult things to can, but Mr. Winslow's patented process makes it comparatively easy.

This is Winslow's mode of canning corn:—Fill tin cans with the uncooked corn cut carefully from the cob. Scrape the cob enough to get the milk, but not so much as to loosen any of the hulls. The corn must be freshly gathered, and not allowed to be in the sun a moment after plucking; the sooner it is cut from the cob and in the can the better. As