

THE TULIP.

I wish to call the attention of florists and gardeners to this flower, which, on account of its having been greatly overvalued at one time, has, perhaps, been less thought of since than it deserves. The Tulip has several very high recommendations.

1st. It is the most showy, and, at the same time, beautiful flower that grows. It has a great number of varieties, that are equally pleasing on a close inspection, or when a bird's-eye view is taken of a number grouped together.

A Tulip-bed should be at least twenty rows long, with six bulbs in a row, which, at six inches apart every way, gives about 12 by 4 feet, a convenient breadth for seeing every individual flower in the bed. This bed or border should be on the northern or western side of a walk, so that the flowers, on facing the morning sun, may be easily seen, that being the time of day when they appear opened into a cup, and consequently to the best advantage.

To one who loves flowers, (and who does not?) such a bed of Tulips, composed of good varieties, well diversified, will give more pleasure every year, during the fortnight or three weeks that it continues in bloom, than the whole cost of it laid out annually in almost any other way.

The collection of Tulips which I possess, and which has been gradually added to for 60 years, gave very great satisfaction every year to my grandfather and father in Scotland, and for upwards of forty years to myself in Canada,—so much so, that it appears to me a hundred dollars a year laid out in any other way would not confer more pleasure. The increase of this collection of Tulips, which, so far as I know, is the finest on the Continent of America, I sell annually, at prices very much lower than varieties of the same excellence could be imported for from Britain or Holland. For instance, *I will sell twenty distinct varieties, named, six of each or 120 flowering bulbs, for six dollars.*

CULTIVATION.

The Tulip is a remarkably hardy flower, suiting almost any soil and climate; and most of the varieties propagate freely, though there is a very great difference in this respect,—some kinds more than doubling, on the average, annually; others, in two or three years; and one or two choice kinds, perhaps not more than once in ten years. The larger the flower, and the longer it continues in bloom, the slower will be the increase at the root.

Many find their Tulips degenerate, and lose them altogether, through the neglect of the simple precaution of breaking off the seed-pods when the petals fall. If these be left on, the strength of the plant runs to seed (which none but regular florists take the trouble of sowing, and they not one pod in a thousand.) The bulbs are, consequently, feeble, and probably do not bloom at all next year. Just as carrots or turnips, when they run to seed, lose the strength and substance of the roots, so it is to a considerable extent with the Tulip; but the breaking of the seed-pods is no trouble, for any child that gets leave will delight to do it.

Any good dry soil will suit Tulips, and if gravelly so much the better. The Tulip should be planted about three inches deep in the fall of the year, in ground pretty well prepared; that from which a crop of potatoes has been taken, for instance, is in a very suitable state for Tulips. Each kind should be in a row, or rows by itself, marked with a pin or label, with the name upon it. There should be no