

## Flower Department.

### DOUBLE STOCK.

To the ladies—One part of our paper is devoted to the young. This issue is not as replete as we could wish in that department, as we have not given them an Anagram or Puzzle Picture, but there is amusement and a moral in the Engraving. We know that you are all fond of flowers, but many of you are too fully occupied, so that you cannot attend to them, still there are we hope some of the readers of our paper but devote a little attention to them. We now present you with this cut of a beautiful double stock. The cut is sent to us by Mr. Vick of Rochester, who has issued a very large and handsome annual catalogue, highly illustrated, and giving prices of his seeds and plants.

We intend having a supply of choice and suitable flower seeds in the Spring, and if any that are now subscribers induce your lady friends to send in their subscription to our paper, we will send to each lady subscriber a small packet of choice flower seeds, free by post, such as will do you and your friends more good than the price of this paper. Just send one ladies name in from your vicinity, and next year you will be admiring the flowers raised from the seed sent from the Emporium Department.

We will also present any one of you with a few choice Seeds, that send us in a short and useful account about anything that will be of use and benefit to our readers on Domestic Economy. Try it and help your Editor.

### Preparing the Ground for Flowers.

The soil should be a mellow loam, if possible, made deep—a foot or eighteen inches at least—and then the plants will not suffer so much in dry weather. It should also be well pulverized—completely broken up—and made as fine and mellow as possible. It is useless to try to grow good flowers on a poor soil; so, if not naturally rich, make it so with a liberal supply of well rotted manure. Every one—even those who do not keep a horse or cow—can have a good pile of manure for flowers without cost. Obtain a lot of turf from the sides of the roads and the corners of the fences, place it in a pile, and throw all the soap-suds and slops upon it. In the autumn, collect the fallen leaves and put them upon this compost heap. Keep adding to it, as you have time and convenience; and when well-rotted, you will have excellent manure for flowers. Always drain the flower garden, so that water will not lie on or near the surface.

### Sowing Seeds.

Many seem to think that seeds will grow anywhere and under any circumstances. They have seen the farmer make a hole and throw in his corn, and in a little while it was up

and growing vigorously; they have learned that the seeds of our native trees and weeds grow without planting and care; and from these facts they get the idea that it is of little consequence how or where the seeds are planted, so that they are in the ground. But these should remember that the seeds planted by the farmer are usually large and

careless system of planting and cultivation, and fill his grounds with Dandelions and Poppies; but he wants the rare and beautiful flowers of every land, so far as climate will permit, to adorn his garden. He must have those that flourish naturally in warmer climates and under more genial skies; and to do so, care and skill are required, and a

different system of culture than is necessary for the propagation of weeds or the more hardy plants. There are others who have altogether an exaggerated view of the difficulties to be encountered in the growth of plants from seed. These views may be the result of repeated failures. They think a hot-bed or a green-house essential, and that without these conveniences little can be done in growing valuable plants, but this is not the case. —[Vick's Catalogue.

### Seed Bed.

Make a bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden; and as soon as the weather becomes settled, and the ground warm, sow the seeds, covering them with a little fine earth, and if very small, sift it upon them. Some one has given as a rule that seeds should be covered twice the depth of their own diameter; that is, that a seed one-sixteenth of an inch through should be covered one-eighth of an inch. Perhaps this is as near correct as any general rule can be. If the weather should prove dry after sowing, it would be well to cover the beds of very small seeds with damp moss, or what is better, with evergreen boughs. A covering of boards, or almost anything that will afford partial protection from the drying winds and sun, will answer a good purpose, for it must be remembered that seeds do not require light for their germination and grow quite as well in the dark until they are above the ground. The covering should be removed as soon as the plants are above the soil, or they will become weak and pale. Of course, it is designed that plants from the hot-bed, cold-frame and seed-bed shall be transplanted to the border or beds where they are to flower, and these helps are intended mainly for Tender and Half-Hardy Annuals. The Hardy Annuals may be sown where they are to flower, though, with the exception of a few varieties difficult to transplant, it is best to grow all in the seed-bed. Some persons succeed very well by starting seeds in the house window in flower-pots. A much better plan is to use shallow boxes, because the earth in small pots becomes dry very rapidly, and unless constant attention is given to watering, the plants will be partially or entirely ruined.



Largest Flowering Dwarf Stock.

produce stronger and more robust plants than those of the florist, and thus are enabled to bear more hardships and to live under more unfavorable circumstances. If the florist would be satisfied with only the most hardy and prolific flowers, such as would take care of themselves, then he might pursue a

The first quarterly fair at Port Perry last week was very successful. A large crowd attended from all parts of the riding; the stock was excellent, and sales encouraging to breeders. Bees changed hands at from \$4 to \$5.

A semi-annual fair will be held at the village of Teeswater, on the second Tuesdays of April and October.