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DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 23, Sorel, P. Q., August 4th, 1886.

Town gardens.—Sorel is a town, though a small one. In it, are many well arranged gardens, though too many of them are, like my own, too much encumbered by trees to produce flowers in perfection. But by far the prettiest I have seen, as to form and beauty, is the property of M. Gauthier, advocate. Situated in one of the streets running at right angles to the great river, as much has been done for this piece of land as its small extent permits. No great expenditure has been

incurred, but the setting out of the flower-beds, the planting, and the general arrangement of the *jardin potager*, leave little to be desired. A little trimming of the trees in the back ground into the form of an arch, to prolong the distance, would perhaps render the thing perfect.

Raised beds vs. flat-work.—It is all very well in England to raise the beds on which small seeds, whether of flowers or of vegetables, are sown, for there, the moisture of the climate secures, in general, uninterrupted growth during the summer months. But, with our sun, I cannot see why every body persists in raising the beds, some to an immoderate height. We all know—at least all of us who have gardens—we all know what a labour watering is. And after all, except on very porous soils, watering, unless it is carried to the extent of drenching, does more harm than good. Some beds, in this good town of Sorel, are actually raised to a height of eighteen inches above the level of the surrounding soil; and, in consequence, the plants, however carefully tended, never attain anything like their proper proportions. And, besides, however earnestly the proprietor or his servants may attend to the watering at first, he or they soon grow tired of the job—coming, as it does, at the end of the day's work—and a doleful fate is the end of those plants.

In this country, beds should be made level with the surface of the ground; and where the soil is very light, a few loads of strong soil should be added to aid the natural earth in retaining moisture. Our pretty square is almost burnt up this season for want of due attention to these things. I sincerely hope that this autumn will not pass away without something being done to change the face of things. No great expense need be incurred: a small hotbed to forward the annuals, would not cost more than five or six dollars, and, in a slack time, a dozen loads of rich heavy soil could be secured.