

writers dwell that they must bury thus deep? Is there no deep, blue vault of heaven above them? Far easier to make the border on the surface—since the vine must have dry and firm footing. Chorlton says, "The grape vine is not so capricious in its food as is generally supposed, but a *dry bottom it must and will have.*" In this opinion every other writer on the grape coincides. What easier mode then to secure this drainage than by making the border on the level ground. Of course you must be guided by the position of your garden. It may have a slope, or it may be a level, but in any case, by the formation of the border on its surface you can secure, without fail, adequate drainage.

The materials of this border need by no means be as far fetched and as costly as is in general recommended. Suppose you build a grapery of the following dimensions—(a small one indeed, but quite large enough to afford you ample and delightful occupation, and fruit in abundance for a family)—in middle 8 feet, in length 15 feet—for this the border required will be 15 x 16—cover this space with bones, old shoes, or old plaster, two or three inches, then a foot of the very coarsest manure you can get—cow and sheep droppings are excellent if mixed with it—and then a foot of sod from the roadside, or an old pasture, or if these be wanting, use your own soil. In this, after it has well settled, your grapes will grow finely, and if they should, as they most certainly will, find their way into the soil below, and into the subsoil below that again, unless you take measures to keep them to the surface, that is their business. Nor are they likely to suffer, for grape growers are just beginning to discover that the subsoil, even though a clayey one, is not one from which the roots shrink, or are likely to be injured by its damp. When we recollect that these roots are in rocky formations sent many feet down into the crevices, and there, amidst cold and moisture, remain without detriment to the vine, as is proven by the annual abundant yield, we need not be so apprehensive as many appear to be, of their descending into the common and not inimical soil in the garden. But then—

3. As to the structure. We have above stated the dimensions, 8 x 15, span roofed. The sill 6 x 6; studs 4½ feet; plate 3 x 4; rafters 6 feet, 1½ x 8. On the upright sides there will be at the bottom a foot board, leaving 3½ feet for glass. On the roof the sash bars will be a fixture, 4 ft. long, leaving 2 feet nearly, for a board, to be hung on hinges, and which may hereafter be replaced

by long sashes. Small as this house is, it will contain 12 vines, and will the second season almost certainly produce 50 lbs. weight; the third 100; the fourth 150; and so on until it yields 300 lbs. weight; as much as it ought ever to be allowed to give. Glimpses of the truth with regard to the vine appear to have been enjoyed by the writers above named, for Allen says:—"Experience convinces me that fine grapes may be grown in a house of quite small dimensions."—Most certainly they may, since in England they have often been grown in structures not much, if any, superior to good hot beds.

The last particular on which we shall have to remark, and a most important one is, the

4. Choice of varieties—and here there can be no hesitation, for the Black Hamburgh and the white Chasselas take the lead, and are far before others the ones with which a beginner should have to deal. I have obtained fine plants of these varieties from the excellent nursery of Mr. Leslie, and doubtless they can be obtained there still.

This vinery, built in a neat but plain and substantial style, would be far more satisfactory and scarcely more costly than what is called the Curate's vinery. This is simply a ditch covered with glass. But it would take five or six times as much glass to cover the number of vines as in the above, and would be much more inconveniently attended to. Mr. Roberts covered some old sand pits with old sashes, planted grapes on the edge of the pits, trained them under the glass, and without further trouble obtained good crops of fruit. If any thing more were needed to prove the inherent vigor, ease of adaptation to varying circumstances, readiness to repay even ordinary attention and culture of the noble vine, this may do it. There is indeed no reason why superior varieties should not be produced in every yard or garden in our large cities and towns. Planted there, they might be trained to advantage on the extensive spaces of blank brick wall, which are now an eye sore, at once ornamenting them by their beautiful foliage, and saving the foreigner the expense and bother of bringing to us what we might and should produce abundantly ourselves. CLERICS.

HINTS ON THE FLOWER GARDEN.

"How exquisitely sweet
This rich display of flowers,—
This airy wild of fragrance,
So lovely to the eye,
And to the sense so sweet!"

Any one having but a few square yards