

will only try. It is true we have not the fine large pastures, long avenues and serpentine walks, borders and figures to operate upon, that they possess in the old country; but we here many neat well got up places, although small, most creditable to their possessors, whose comfort and pleasure is in their being well kept, and this depends upon the industry, the care and attention of their gardeners. Although the places, borders and beds be small, the riband principle may, in a minute way, be carried out successfully so as to have a very good effect. Every man has a taste of his own, and in carrying out his ideas ought to exercise his own judgment, and endeavour, as far as lies in his power, to excel his neighbours.

Begin preparations now, look carefully after the bedding out of plants for the coming season, propagate as much as you can, especially in new things and of what good things you may have least of; and endeavour to have all things in readiness by the time of planting.

From the stock of plants in store, and the exertions which no doubt will be made, I feel assured that the ladies would look forward to the coming season for a fine display of new ribbons and other nice things in the floral way. Not long ago, I heard it remarked that few in Hamilton had seen this new bedding system properly carried out; this may be very true, nevertheless I maintain, that every practical gardener who has read the *Gardener's Chronicle* or the *Cottage Gardener*, where it has been very fully described, cannot but know the mode. If he understands the nature and culture of plants, and is capable of discerning one colour from another, he cannot fail in carrying it out.

Mr. Fleming, Seedsman and Florist in Toronto, has, through the columns of the *Agriculturist* been entertaining us with his Horticultural Notes, made during his tour last summer in the old country. He particularly notices the ribanding systems "grouping" he calls it—see the *Agriculturist* for January of this year, page 27, where he gives a list of plants and colours suitable for the purpose. It is to be hoped he has brought home such as he did not possess when he left Toronto, and that by this time he has largely increased their numbers and is now able to supply his numerous customers.

Excellent new varieties of bedding plants are being yearly produced in England and elsewhere—our Canadian nurserymen and florists ought to endeavour to obtain as many of them as they possibly can. There is in this no doubt a considerable risk, and sometimes serious loss; such consequences must be submitted to, as there is no way of avoiding them. The wealthy portion of the community, possessing taste, would be sure to possess them at the first, and afterwards they would

become general. Mr. Bruce of Bruce & Mcray in this city, and Mr. Fleming, of Toronto had both importations of new bedding plants last year. I have seen in their nurseries some gold and silvered geraniums, and several of the other new varieties; they may wish to keep them in a corner for a time, but like the Highlandman, they will be out.

It would be well if our nurserymen, florists and gardeners would turn their attention to hybridizing, by which means new varieties would be obtained at home. There is nothing particularly difficult in the matter, and they would only begin and persevere that can be no doubt of success.

I would also notice that some exertion should be made this year, to discover among our native plants, those best adapted for bedding purposes; a good number may be found and made to answer the end. Let this be properly looked into during the summer season, and it may be that a good collection will be obtained sufficient to form a nice border. For such a collection there would be a good inducement to some of our very liberal special prize contributors to offer a handsome prize.

Had time permitted, I fully intended have laid down before you diagrams illustrating my own ideas on the bedding system, but this I must forgo at present.

GEORGE LAING,  
Landscape Gardener

Hamilton, Mar. 3rd, 1863.

## GARDEN MEMORANDA.

The delightful and busy season of spring having arrived, the following hints relative to the culture of the principal garden crops, may be found useful. They are taken from the year's Descriptive Catalogue of JAMES FLAING & Co., Seedsman, of this City.

### Brief Hints on Sowing Seeds, Transplanting, Watering, Insects, &c.

**SOWING SEEDS.**—Warmth and moisture, essential, and seclusion from light is favorable to germination. The first care in sowing should be to choose suitable ground, the temperature and state of the earth, and then place them at such depth beneath the surface as will ensure the requisite supply of moisture. In general all seeds should be covered more or less according to their size and the advance of the season; late sowings require to be covered the deepest. The smallest seeds ought to be sown very shallow, in fine earth, and rolled or beaten firmly with the back of a spade.

The freshest seeds of some kinds often fail from unseasonable and improper management in sowing, and other circumstances affecting their vegetation. When sown too early or