

HARDY PERENIAL FLOWERING PLANTS.

This class of plants has of late years been sadly neglected in this country, for what reason I know not, for nothing makes the garden more gay with so little trouble as they. Look at the English cottagers' gardens, filled with Daisies and Pansies, Primroses and Auriculars, Polanthus and Iris, Phloxes and Carnations, Pinks and Picotees, Ranunculus and Anemones, and a host of others, worthy inhabitants of any garden, and vastly superior to the trash now so common through the length and breadth of the land, loading the air with fragrance and feasting the eye with their brilliant colors and varied forms and tell me where is garden so pleasant to look upon. Some may say "We cannot grow those things in this country," and of one or two of them it is true, but most of them *can* be grown here and that too so as to be hard to beat. During our short, dry summers, many Annuals upon which most gardens depend for effect, are difficult to grow and require great attention. To secure success with any plant it must be looked after, but the herbaceous perennial plants of which I shall now speak require less than most others.

Perhaps it would be well to commence with the noble Phlox, of the beauties of which few persons have a correct idea. The word Phlox means flame, the plant belongs to the Nat order, Polymoniaceae. They are all with the exception of one species,—Drummondu,—herbaceous Perennials.

They are separated into two classes according to their manner of growth, the tall ones growing about three feet high are styled Suffruticose varieties, and the lower ones are called Decumbent varieties. They produce large panicles or corymbs of flowers of various colors some of them beautifully striped as Van Houtii, Roi Leopold, &c., and thrive well in good garden soil. By a judicious choice of varieties, they may be had in flower for several months, from June to October. It is needless to enumerate varieties here, for any person ordering a dozen plants from a respectable nurseryman will get as good a collection, as will be needed. Next comes *Diclybra Spectabilis*, belonging to the Nat. order; Fumariaceae, the name derived from *dis* two, and *elytron* a sheath, referring to the form of the sepals.

It was described by Linnæus, but never seen alive in Europe till introduced from China by Mr. Fortune, into the garden of the Horticultural Society of London, in 1846. Its specific name, *Spectabilis*, means remarkable, and it is remarkably different in habit to any other occupant of our gardens: the flowers are produced in racemes, on stalks about one foot long and hang in an exceeding graceful, drooping manner, from the under side. It requires rich light soil, and is easily propagated by division of the roots. It *must* be in every good garden.

The Carnation and Picotee, *Dianthus Caryophyllus* and the Pink. *Dianthus Plumarius* are well-known but not sufficiently appreciated, and at present good ones are scarce in this country, and consequently dear, but in the course of a year or two I hope they will be both plentiful and cheap. The improved varieties are really elegant and are indispensable in every good collection. Good varieties may be obtained from carefully selected seed, and when once obtained should be perpetuated by layers or cuttings. For bouquets the flowers are invaluable on account of their beauty and fragrance.