

OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 28, 1881.



THE FARM AND HOME.

[From the Rockledge Enterprise]
The Garden

In view of the growing interest in gardening in this portion of Virginia, I have asked our editors to give space to this subject. I propose to give each month, reasonable topics suited to our soil and latitude; also to answer correspondents on short practical questions regarding flower and vegetable culture. I append a few answers by way of sample. If interest be taken in this subject by the subscribers of the ENTERPRISE, this feature will be made permanent, if not the space will be used for some other topic. The wish of the publishers is to ascertain exactly what their subscribers desire information upon; and having found that out, no pains will be spared on their part to communicate it. Friends, let us know your needs and see if we cannot make the "Correspondents column" a success.

FLOWER GARDEN.—This should now be forked over lightly, the manure placed on the borders last fall being buried neatly. Lilies should now be putting up a strong growth and should not be disturbed. All hardy annuals should now be sown. Superfluous suckers of roses, lilacs, &c., may now be removed and the old beds receive a top dressing of rich material.

KITCHEN GARDEN.—Continue sowings of peas, &c., for successive crops. Sow carrots, salsify, lettuce, radishes, and plant out cabbages raised in the house for extra early. Many of our seeds fall here from the fact that we lose the spring rains upon them, and the ground bakes like a brick when the seedlings are coming through. Put in cucumbers after the following manner, for extra early: Make up a few hills and lay the edge of a plank over it, so as to print a cross. This will divide the hill into four quarters. Sow in one quarter; next week sow in the next, and so on. If the frost cuts down the first sowing, the second is coming on. If that goes, the third may succeed. The same plan may be adopted with other seeds. Salsaparilla beds, also sea kule, if any body in Virginia is smart enough to grow this little grown delicious vegetable. A few early turnips for summer use may be sown. Robertson's Golden Ball will be found desirable. Strawberries should have the litter with which they were mulched just drawn away from the crown of the plant. It will serve to keep the fruit from the ground.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
YUCCA DROOPING (A Subscriber).—The lower leaves of the plants droop from the exposure of the roots to the drying influence of the atmosphere. Water it, giving it a thorough soaking, and place it outside, the tub being protected from frost and the air by plunging, or by placing some material around it.

SALT FOR ASPARAGUS-BEDS (S.).—The quantity of salt you name is excessive to be put on the beds at once. We advise the salt to be applied at twice—that is, when the beds are dressed in spring give them a dressing of 1 1/2 lb. of salt per square yard, or 24 lbs. for your bed, 30 feet by 5 feet, and you may repeat the application at the end of the cutting, or about the middle of June; 1 lb. per yard will be ample. The weeds will easily be kept under.

DISSOLVING BONES (J. P. Graves).—To form superphosphate of lime the proportions are 1 lb. of bones, 12 ozs. of sulphuric acid, and 12 ozs. of water.

LILUM LANCEOLATUM RUBRUM (Idem).—The top-dressing should at once be removed also the offsets. Look to the drainage of the pots, remove as much of the old soil as can be done without injuring the roots, and replace it with fresh, some of the coarsest being placed over the drainage. The top-dressing must be repeated when the shoots are a few inches above the rim of the pot.

CALADIUM CULTURE (A Notice).—The compost may consist of equal parts of turfy loam and peat, one-third leaf mould, and one-sixth silver sand, and one-sixth pieces of charcoal about the size of a hazel nut, all well incorporated. It is desirable to afford a temperature of 65 degrees at night, and from 75 degrees to 85 degrees by day, with air. The watering should be very moderate at first, but when in full growth the plants require very copious supplies of water, and they luxuriate in liquid manure. The rhizomes should be buried about an inch.

Thoroughbred Gobblers.

Thorough breeding in the poultry yard pays quite as well as among larger animals, though very little attention is paid to it. Most farmers are satisfied with breeding turkeys from the runs of the flock, which generally means birds hatched in August or September, which have not had Christmas market. Those weighing fifteen pounds and hens ten pounds, will indeed perpetuate the race, but there is very little profit in breeding such stock, when birds, a third or more heavier, are within their reach, and can be bred with no more care or cost. The introduction of a thoroughbred Bronze or Narragansett gobbler, weighing twenty pounds or more, at eight months from the shell, among a flock of mongrel turkey hens, will add from three to five pounds weight per head to the turkeys raised the first season. The cost of such a young cock is not far from five dollars. Suppose a hundred birds to be raised, the gain would be about 400 pounds, which, at the price Rhode Island turkeys brought at the past season in Eastern markets, twenty cents a pound, would be eighty dollars. As turkeys with a good range get their own living through the summer, the most of this is clear gain. It will pay those who raise turkeys to invest in thoroughbred gobblers. —*American Agriculturist.*

A painter went to sleep in New York, the other day, on the cross-beam of a telegraph pole. A crowd gathered and woke him up. He retaliated by sprinkling them with paint from the brush. Seeing that he was drunk, and fearing that he would fall, a fellow-workman shouted: "Bill, I'll give you a drink if you'll come down." He came down to get the drink, and was not allowed to paint any more.

[New Albany Ledger-Standard.]

Speaking of Governors suggests the mention of an item we received from Mr. Henry A. Knight, foreman at Chas. Waters & Co.'s Governor and Valve Works, Boston, Mass.: I have used St. Jacobs Oil among our employees and find that it never fails to cure. The men are delighted with the wonderful effects of the Oil, as it has cured them of bruises, burns, &c.

When Chang, the Chinese giant with Barnum's show, travels in a sleeping car, three berths have to be knocked into one to afford him sufficient accommodation, and enable him to stretch his legs.



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