THE MONTHLY FLOWER GARDEN

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JOHNS, CHARLES ALEXANDER
MONTHLY
[1858?]
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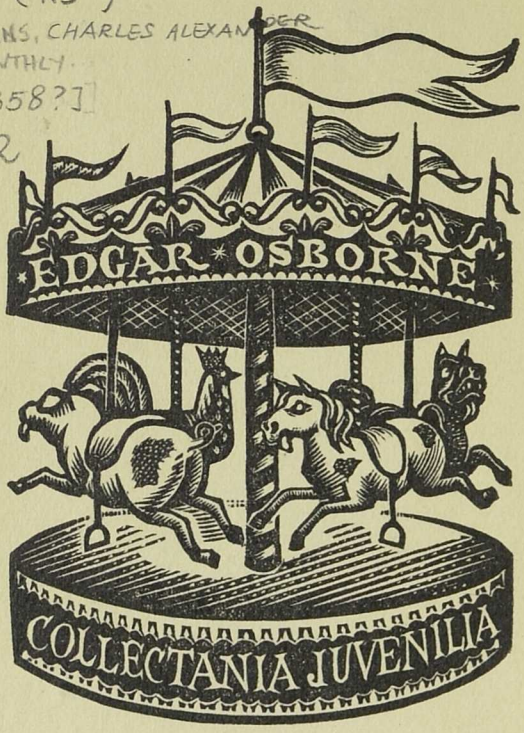

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THE MONTHLY

Flower Garden.

EDITED BY THE

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PYRUS JAPONICA
SNOW DROP

HEPATICA
POLYANTHUS

JANUARY

January.

Fair was that garden which the Lord God planted
Eastward in Eden, when the world was young:
When bounteous nature all her fulness granted,
And morning stars for joy together sung.

Happy their work who watched from rosy morning
Till dewy eve the new born flowers unfold;
With sweetest name each opening bud adorning,
Till floral treasures spread in wealth untold.

Nor noxious weed, nor thorn, nor thistle, growing;
Plants only fair to see, or good for food,
Watered by crystal streams for ever flowing,
His voice Who made them all pronounced them good.

Say, beauteous flowers, have ye our fall partaken?
Ye bloom not as in Eden's happy home;
Ye need our culture now; of man forsaken,
Your beauty fades, your tendrils wildly roam.

And we will watch and tend you in our garden,
Man's first companions and his first delight;
Breathe out sweet scents in token of our pardon,
And we will be your guardians day and night.

E. H. C.

JANUARY.

Polyanthus.—No great expenditure, either of money or labour, is required to stock a garden with as many as may be desired of this old-fashioned favourite. At any time during summer (as soon as the seed is ripe is perhaps best), sow, in a box or earthen pan filled with old leaf mould, a pinch of seeds, covering them lightly with soil; set the pan to stand in a shady place; water from time to time, gently, to avoid washing away the seeds; when the plants have put forth three or four leaves, prick them out, a few inches apart, into a bed where the soil is tolerably good and not too dry; allow them to remain till autumn, and then remove them to the border where they are to stand. A very small proportion, perhaps none, will turn out what are called good flowers, but they will all be pretty, showy, and fragrant. When the flowers begin to fade, discard all those the colours of which are dull or the petals ill-formed; allow the rest to remain till summer; save the seeds for future use, if desired, and having taken up the plants, pull them asunder into as many pieces as is practicable, so that each piece shall consist of a tuft of leaves and a portion of roots; plant them in a shady place, and each will have become a good plant by the following spring.

Pyrus Japonica.—A shrub or small tree, deservedly prized for its brilliant red flowers, which appear early in the year and remain in bloom for a considerable time. It may be either trained against a wall or treated as a standard; it is impatient of drought, and should consequently be watered occasionally until thoroughly established; it may be increased by layers or suckers. A variety has flowers of a pale pink hue.

Snowdrop.—Too well known to need any description, and so hardy as to require no attention beyond that of planting. If it be found desirable to take up the roots after the leaves have faded, in order to make room for other plants, they should be replanted not later than October.

Hepatica.—A species of anemone, with glossy ivy-like leaves and pretty flowers, white, blue, or red, single or double, which grow singly on a short slender stalk. Propagated by division of the roots in summer.

C. A. J.

CROCUS
HYACINTH

CORONILLA

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY.

HYACINTH.—A bulbous plant, much prized for the rich and various colours of its fragrant flowers, which appear early, and are little affected by any degree of cold. The bulbs, which are annually imported in large numbers from Holland, should be planted in September or October, a few inches below the soil, when they immediately begin to push forth roots and leaves; the flowers appear from February to April, or later; they may either be allowed to remain in the ground all the year round, or may be taken up as soon as the leaves are withered away, and planted again at any time not later than September; if grown in pots, care should be taken to keep the earth almost dry until the roots have fairly started, or they are liable to absorb moisture too rapidly, and to decay in consequence; if grown in hyacinth glasses, the crown of the root should not be allowed to touch the water, and they should be kept in a dark place until they have begun to grow.

CROCUS.—Of this cheerful showy flower there are many varieties, of which the best are the large yellow, white, purple, and blue; they require similar treatment to the hyacinth, but should be planted deeper, being a favourite food of mice, who, in spite of every precaution, will often make great havoc in a border. While the crocus is in flower, the seed vessels remain buried beneath the ground; but as soon as the flowers wither, the seed vessels rise on a stalk above the surface of the soil, and their contents are ripened by exposure to heat and air. The leaves should not be cut off until they are withered; but if the ground is wanted for other plants, the roots may be taken up and replanted in any spare piece of ground, and the *corms*, as the roots are termed, may be taken up when dry and stored away till autumn.

CORONILLA GLAUCA.—A leafy shrub, conspicuous with bright yellow flowers, requiring protection in winter, except in the extreme south of England, or in very mild seasons; propagated by seed or from cuttings. The flowers are fragrant by day, but at night scentless.

C. A. J.

February.

It is not summer! scarcely is it spring,
Yet in our gardens see the gracious sun
Over the emerald lawn long shadows fling;
And, sparkling with his radiance, one by one,
Leaf, blade, and tiniest daisy-bud grow bright
In the reflection of that golden light.

Lose not this morn delicious—the blue sky
That looks so lovingly to woo thee out;
Winter is past,—thy fireside book lay by,
Come see what waking Nature is about:
She fell asleep when Winter stripped her bare,
But rises to a toilette far more fair.

Those withered bulbs that went with her to rest,
Have slumbered in her bosom for awhile;
Now by the loving sun's warm beams caressed,
See leaf expand, and bud and flow'ret smile,
Till heavenward looks the golden crocus up,
And gently droops the hyacinth's pale cup.

O hyacinth and crocus, in your bloom
We read a lesson such as saints might give,
Fearless to trust our loved ones to the tomb,
Strong in the faith that tells us they shall live—
Like you, shall rise triumphant from the earth;
Buried like you, shall know as bright a birth.

E. H. C.

ANEMONE WALL FLOWER

MARCH

March.

As when of old, the water floods assuaging,
God sent a gracious wind to dry the earth;
So, when the gales of March are wildly raging,
Let us remember Him who gives them birth.
Before His breath see mist and vapour flying,
The moistened earth again His power shall know,
God's promise of a seed-time never dying;
Now be it ours the precious seed to sow!

Labour of love! the tiny grain bestowing,
To see it spring again a summer flower;
To watch each leaf expand, each blossom blowing,
Warmed by the sun and nurtured by the shower;
To find the dainty mignonette a dwelling,
To bid the sweet pea's tendrils linger there,
To plant the hollyhock in grace excelling,
And find a home for every flow'ret fair.

Hope sows the seed; and patience, duly waiting,
Expects the early and the latter rain;
Waits till the breath of April, life creating,
Shall teach us that our work was not in vain:
Patience and hope, almighty in their power,
And never weary in their daily task,
Point us to Him who rules the varying hour,
And bid us only for His blessing ask.

E. H. C.

MARCH.

ANEMONE, or WIND-FLOWER.—Of this showy family of plants there are many species in cultivation, of which those called *Anemone coronaria*, or garland wind-flower, and *A. hortensis*, garland wind-flower, are the most frequent. The varieties are very numerous, the flowers being red, purple, violet, yellowish, white, or varigated, and either single or double. The roots are tuberous, and if left in the ground for several years attain a considerable size, when they may be taken up and parted. They will bear being kept out of the ground for a long time, and will bloom according to the season at which they were planted: those required to flower early in spring should be planted in September, and the soil covered with ashes to protect them from frost. To rear them from seed, sow, in boxes filled with light rich earth, in August; protect the young plants from frost during the winter; and when the leaves have withered in the following summer, transfer them to the flower border, where they will bloom next spring. Other species, which require nearly the same treatment, are the peacock, starry, Apennine, and wood wind-flowers, and the Pasque-flower, so called from its blooming about the season of Easter.

WALLFLOWER.—The double varieties, whether yellow, brownish red, or purple, may readily be propagated from cuttings or *slips* planted in a moist shady place during summer. When thoroughly rooted they may be removed to the flower border, or allowed to remain untouched till spring. The single and semi-double varieties are best raised from seed, which should be sown in July or August, and transplanted to the flower borders in time to establish themselves before the setting in of frost; they will flower in the following spring. A small packet of German wallflower seeds, as supplied by the nursery-men, will be sufficient for a garden of considerable size.

C. A. J.

AURICULA
TULIP

JONQUIL
ERANTHIS

APRIL

April.

The lamps were dimly burning,
  The rain came thickly down,
When with weary feet returning
  I came home through the town;
Never was I more glad to stand
  On the threshold of my door,
As, closing it with ready hand,
  I wished "'t would rain no more."

My garden flowers, next morning,
  I thought them wondrous bright;
Whence got they their adorning?
  'T was the rain of yesternight!
They had flourished 'mid the show'rs
  That made my lips complain;
Then I thanked God for the hours
  Of the gently falling rain.

And I thought, those show'rs so kindly
  Might 'mind us of the tears
Which our hearts would often blindly
  Exchange for gladsome years.
Life's cloudy moments we refuse,
  And sunlight seek again;
But we may not have the rainbow's hues,
  Without the falling rain.

E. H. C.

APRIL.

JONQUIL.—A bulbous-rooted plant, with fragrant yellow flowers, either single or double. The bulbs should be planted a few inches below the soil in September or October, and they will flower the following spring. After flowering, cut off the stalks close to the ground, but allow the leaves to remain until they have withered; when this has taken place, the bulbs may either be taken up and kept dry until autumn, or allowed to remain in the ground. All the varieties of Narcissus require the same treatment.

GENTIANELLA.—An Alpine plant, with low smooth leaves and flowers of an intense blue. It requires no particular cultivation, and may be propagated by dividing the roots.

WINTER ACONITE or ERANTHIS.—A succulent herbaceous plant, growing freely in almost any situation, and requiring nearly the same treatment as the anemone.

TULIP.—This, being a florist's flower, has been the subject of many treatises, recording the most approved methods of storing, planting, and manuring the roots, sheltering the flowers, saving the seeds, &c.; but the management of the early Van Thol tulip, whether single or double, is too simple to require any directions, further than those supplied above for the jonquil.

AURICULA.—Another florist's flower, requiring particular treatment to secure the finest blooms, but needing little attention if only the common kinds are cultivated. The seeds should be sown as soon as ripe, and in autumn the seedlings should be planted out in soil composed of leaf mould and light manure, where they may either remain till they come into flower, or be transferred to the flower garden early in spring; they may also be propagated by division of the roots. Old plants are improved by occasional removal and separation, as is the case with the polyanthus and others of the primrose family.

C. A. J.

APPLE BLOSSOM
HEART'S EASE

NEMOPHILA

MAY

May.

Open your windows, that the sweet May breeze
May enter at its will,
Bearing fresh perfume from the blossoming trees,
The quiet air to fill—

Quiet, but for the sound of that sweet singing
That floats up from the dell;
But for the hum of bees, enamoured clinging
To honied cup and bell.

It is the time of Nature's regal dressing:
When, like an Eastern queen
In costliest gems arrayed, the earth caressing,
She decks it emerald green.

Here the laburnum hangs its golden chain,
The silvery hawthorn there;
Like amethyst, the lilac studs her train,
And ruby blossoms rare.

The apple trees have donned a robe of pink,
In homage for awhile;
How gay the grassplot looks! come, sit and think
Of Nature's younger smile.

Was she not fairer, when with childish glee
We hailed the first of May—
Plucked the sweet promise from the hawthorn tree,
And twined with tulips gay?

Thus far I thought, when apple bloom replied—
"*We* are not changed, but *you*;"
That rosy blush confounded me: I sighed,
Confessing it too true!

E. H. C.

NEMOPHILA.—A beautiful blue flower, which has been called, not inaptly, the "Californian primrose," from the fact of its adorning in early spring, with profuse blossoms, the woods of the country from which it takes its name. It may be sown, late in autumn, where it is to stand, and if the winter be a mild one it will take no injury, and blossom early in spring: or it may be sown in a box in winter, and kept in a warm window, that the seedlings may be planted out as soon as the frosts have disappeared; or the sowing may be deferred till March, April, or May, in which cases it will flower proportionably later, but always be lovely. A single plant, raised in autumn and protected in a house during winter, forms a beautiful ornament for the window at this season; it should be allowed a tolerably large pot filled with rich soil, and permitted either to hang down over the sides or be trained to a stick. Two other species are commonly grown—one white, dotted with black, the other of a dingy purple hue; these, though singular, are not so beautiful as the blue one.

HEARTSEASE.—To secure an early bloom of heartsease, sow a small quantity of seed in August; by October, the seedlings will have made sufficient progress to be planted out into a bed, from six to eight inches apart; no amount of cold will injure them, and early in spring they will flower profusely. They may also be propagated at any season, except winter, by taking off the tops of succulent shoots, and planting them under a glass in some shady place; they will strike in a very short time, and soon become handsome plants, producing flowers much finer and more abundant than the old plants from which they were taken.

APPLE BLOSSOM.—When apples are grown for profit, to gather the blossom indicates, no doubt, a lack of wisdom; but if a lovely May nosegay is desired, it can scarcely be judged complete without at least a solitary bunch of apple-blossom. Elect then, either to gratify the eye in May, or indulge the palate in October.

C. A. J.

ROSE
CONVOLVULUS MINOR

SCARLET SALVIA
WHITE LILY

JUNE

June.

Dream we of June's delights—before our eyes
Let the thatched cottage of our childhood rise;
Its walls with clustering roses covered o'er,
Festoons of woodbine deck the open door;
Before it, see a tiny garden lies,
So neat, you know it watched by loving eyes;
And, fencing it from the smooth village green,
A low white paling lined with shrubs is seen.
Across that common often have I roved
In childhood's hour, held by a hand beloved—
The hand of one, over whose silvered head
Full threescore years and ten their course had sped.
Beyond the common lay a garden fair,
And 't was his great delight to labour there.
I see them now—the roses of his pride
And queenly lilies reigning side by side;
Those double stocks, all gorgeous red and white,
To tend them was the dear old man's delight.
Where the sweetbriar hedge perfumes the breeze;
I see the hives, I hear the murmuring bees.
Oh, happy dreams of still more happy hours!
All, all are gone, the beehives and the flowers:
And he who loved them best is gone, but yet
Leaving a lesson we may not forget—
Of calm delights to nature's lovers given,
Of peace for which the world has vainly striven.
He who considers how the lilies grow,
The all-protecting care of God shall know;
New pleasures spring for him on each new day,
Sweet sights and sounds go with him on his way;
And all creation, with its thrilling voice,
Speaks of the love of God, and says, "Rejoice."

E. H. C.

WHITE LILY.—A bulbous-rooted plant, perfectly hardy, and a necessary ornament of every flower garden; it requires no peculiar treatment, but should be removed only at the season when it is passing out of flower.

CONVOLVULUS MINOR.—A pretty annual, with white, blue, or purplish flowers, which should be sown in April or May, either in patches of five or six together, or in the seed bed and transplanted.

SCARLET SALVIA.—Take up from the ground in October or November, a small plant, and, having potted it, store it away where it will be protected from frost, keeping the roots moderately damp; in spring it will send forth numerous shoots, every one of which, if planted in silver sand and covered with a hand-glass, will soon become a stout handsome bush; the old plant, however, will flower the earliest.

ROSE.—It is impossible to compress into a small space, rules for the treatment of this queen of flowers; the following hints, however, may be useful. The smooth-leaved varieties, for the most part, require but little pruning, though thinning is desirable; the rough-leaved should be pruned to the extent of at least half of the wood formed during the previous summer—the hardy varieties in winter, the tender ones in spring. If a succession of flowers is desired, each tree should be pruned in its turn, at intervals of a week or more. As the leaves begin to expand, they should be searched for the destruction of grubs and caterpillars; long leafy shoots should be cut out as they appear; green flies should be destroyed by dipping the extremities of the branches into tobacco-water; the roots should be annually manured, and in dry weather an occasional copious watering is desirable. The best season for budding is from the middle of June to the middle of August; for planting cuttings, August and September. Most roses may be readily propagated by layering, and plants thus raised will flower in the following summer; such plants are also well adapted for window culture; they should be pruned in November, and taken into the house before frost sets in, and be favoured while growing with as much light and air as is possible.

C. A. J.

LARKSPUR
COREOPSIS
MYRTLE

POPPY
CARNATION
PINK

JULY

July.

Spreading abroad thy silvery mantling mist
  To cool the morning hours,
Or e'er the sun with hasty love has kissed
  The dewdrops from the flowers,

Welcome July, thou pleasant dreaming time
  Beneath the dark tree's shade;
Crowning the summer with thy golden prime,
  And nights of twilight made.

Welcome with thee the rose-embowered chair,
  Where I may sit and gaze
On bud and blossom, that have sprung up fair
  Since laughing Spring's young days.

Seems it but yesterday the tiny seed
  Fell on the dull brown earth;
Soft rain and gentle sunshine both agreed
  To give the leaflet birth.

And now draw nigh the floral harvest hours,
  When loving hands shall meet
In many a cherished nosegay of fair flowers,
  Nature's reward most sweet.

Sure, never Spring shall find us idle more;
  But gladly we will go,
Even as He of old, the scripture sower,
  Went forth His seed to sow—

To sow beside all waters, stony ground,
  Or barren rocky soil;
And where the good and pleasant place is found,
  Resolved to spare no toil.

The truth that came as if on angels' wings,
  Our motto we will keep;
For as we sow in earthly, heavenly things
  So surely shall we reap.

E. H. C.

LARKSPUR.—Sow in a hot bed in March, or in the open air in April. As soon as the young plants are furnished with a few leaves, transplant to the places which they are intended to occupy permanently, choosing showery weather for the operation; but if this be impossible, watering and sheltering from the direct rays of the sun till they are established. Great care should be taken to protect them from slugs, which are particularly fond of these plants while in their tender stage. Dwarf larkspurs may be sown where they are to stand; and, their colours being various and bright, they will make a pretty bed. The tall branching larkspur is valuable from its remaining a long time in bloom, but is in all respects inferior to the recently introduced species, *Delphinium formosum*, which, though a perennial, flowers the first year after sowing.

COREOPSIS.—There are two kinds of Coreopsis commonly grown, *C. tinctoria*, figured in the illustration, and *C. coronaria*, the former being by far the prettier plant. Its foliage is delicate, stems slender, and flowers golden yellow, with a deep purple brown centre. A dwarf variety may be obtained from the seedsmen, which, from its compact habit of growth, is well adapted for forming the edging of a bed.

MYRTLE.—Easily reared from cuttings of the tender shoots planted in silver sand, and kept moist and shaded.

POPPY.—Growing readily from seed sown in spring, and requiring no attention.

PINK and CARNATION.—In June and July bend down the side shoots of these plants till they touch the bottom of a slight hollow previously formed in the ground. Cut half-way through, or simply bruise, the stem where it touches the earth; then peg it down with a crook-stick or forked branch of a fern; cover with soil, and allow all to remain undisturbed until autumn or the following spring. This is the process of layering. Pinks and carnations may also be reared from cuttings (called pipings) made at the same season, and planted in sandy soil in a damp shady place.

C. A. J.

BLUE SALVIA
PASSION-FLOWER
CALCEOLARIA

ESCHSCHOLTZIA
GERANIUM

AUGUST

August.

Leaf after leaf in Nature's book
  Time's stealthy hand turns over,
And still on every leaf we look
  New beauty to discover.

Turn down the page where blithe young Spring
  Came dancing forth to greet us;
As fair a form doth Autumn bring
  In golden robe to meet us.

The virgin pink and green are fled;
  But mellower tints, succeeding,
A glory o'er the garden shed,
  No spring-time graces needing.

For Nature is a painter wise,
  Not all her colours spending;
Rich hues she keeps for August skies,
  All shades of glory blending.

And he who seeks a nosegay now,
  More gorgeous blooms may gather
Than Spring's bright promise e'er could show,
  Or June's delicious weather.

Bathed in the golden light of noon
  Their dazzling hues are steeping,
But lovelier 'neath the harvest moon
  I see them sweetly sleeping.

O Nature! night and day alike
  With thy dear praise are ringing;
In unison my voice would strike,
  And blest thee in my singing.

E. H. C.

Blue Salvia.—The roots of this handsome plant are tuberous, and may be kept through the winter by storing them away in any dry and cool place. In early spring they should be placed in moderately damp earth, under a frame or in a warm room; buds will soon begin to push forth from the remains of last year's stalks, which, when they have produced a few leaves, should be cut off and struck in white sand under a bell-glass; when the flowering is pretty well over, they should at once be taken up, as they are impatient of frost.

Passion Flower.—Easily propagated by cuttings or layers, which if planted against a wall will soon become fine plants.

Calceolaria.—The herbaceous varieties are usually raised from seed, the shrubby from cuttings; these may be taken in autumn, and kept in a dry and moderately warm place during winter; or a single store plant may be taken up and potted in autumn, in which case it will supply abundance of cuttings in the following spring; but the autumn-struck cuttings will make the finest plants.

Eschscholtzia.—A hardy annual, raised from seed sown at any time in spring or summer. When once introduced into a garden, it will continue to sow itself for an indefinite period, all that is needed being to take care that it does not overpower other plants of less robust habit. Though generally treated as an annual, the roots are in reality perennial, but will not withstand the severity of an English winter.

Geranium.—The many varieties of scarlet geranium may be propagated from cuttings, to be struck in white sand under a bell-glass, either in autumn or in early spring. The former make the stronger plants, but as they require to be protected from frost during winter, this method is scarcely feasible without some structure set apart for the purpose; where this is wanting, the best alternative is to pot one or two plants of each variety, and to set them aside in some warm place in the house, giving them very little water, and carefully removing all withered leaves; in spring, cut off with a sharp knife the young shoots, and plant them in a cucumber frame, if possible, otherwise in any warm spot under a bell-glass.

C. A. J.

SNAPDRAGON
PENSTEMON

YELLOW JASMINE
NASTURTIUM

SEPTEMBER

September.

Still silent change is passing round:
  Now shines September's sun
In mellow lustre on the ground,
  And Autumn has begun.

Autumn, that binds the golden sheaf,
  And brings the harvest song;
That tips with red each trembling leaf,
  Stealing the woods along.

No sadness yet the landscape knows,
  Painting its future doom;
No shadows yet cold Winter throws,
  But all is ruddy bloom.

As if, when flowers were scant and few,
  The leaves had fondly striven
To deck themselves in gorgeous hue,
  And mock the tints of heaven.

Now joy is on the Sun's broad face
  To know his labour done;
Triumphant in a brilliant race,
  A glorious victory won.

Lingers his chariot in the west
  At golden evening's hour.
His tender glances fondly rest
  On Autumn's costly dower;

The ripened fruit, the garnered ear,
  He claims them as his crown:
Proud of the Summer's grand career,
  September's sun goes down.

E. H. C.

SEPTEMBER.

SNAP-DRAGON.—Sow in August in a seed-pan or box; when the seedlings are a few inches high, plant them out either in the border or into a separate bed; they will flower the following summer. If the seed should have been saved from good sorts, the produce will comprise flowers of various tints, of which, crimson, yellow, and white will be the predominant; some with the tube and lips of two different colours, others striped, speckled, or veined. At any time during summer, select the prettiest varieties and take cuttings from them; for though the old plants will live and bloom for several years, they are liable to become large and straggling.

PENTSTEMON.—Of this there are three common varieties,—crimson, purple, and white,—all easily reared from cuttings taken at any time during summer; they are quite hardy, blooming freely till cut off by the frost, and shooting again from the roots in the following spring.

YELLOW JASMINE.—Reared from cuttings or layers, but not so easily as many other plants, and growing but slowly at first. It is desirable, therefore, to procure a well-established plant, and to train it against a wall, when it will soon become a handsome shrub. The plant figured in the Illustration is *Jasminum revolutum*. Another species, *J. nudiflorum*, comes into flower in November, and blooms throughout the winter; it may be reared readily from cuttings taken in summer, and should be trained to a wall. The flowers and leaves of this latter kind appear at different seasons.

NASTURTIUM, more commonly called TROPÆOLUM, easily raised from seed sown in spring. There are several varieties, of which that known as the *dwarf crimson* is the most desirable, unless a climbing variety be required, in which case the common sorts may be advantageously mixed with *T. Canariense*, a distinct species, with prettily lobed leaves, and yellow flowers of the colour, and, as fanciful people will have it, of the form, of the canary bird, whence it takes its name, *canary flower*. The double varieties are propagated by cuttings. They are all hardy enough during summer, but are impatient of frost.

C. A. J.

MICHAELMAS DAISY
LOBELIA
HOLLYHOCK
FUCHSIA

WHITE JASMINE
DAHLIA
AGERATUM

OCTOBER

October.

Red leaves, that dance across my path,
  Before the light breeze flying,
Your voice for me a music hath
  Mixed with the wind's low sighing.
Say, are ye whisp'ring of the pleasant past,
Of the bright happiness that would not last?

Murmur ye of the merry hours
  When, clust'ring close together,
Your shelt'ring care preserved the flowers
  From rain and stormy weather?
Mourn ye the fate that waits upon you now,
Severed for ever from the parent bough?

We have been friends in sunny time:
  And now as well I love you
As when ye grew in beauty's prime,
  With the bright blue sky above you;
Do ye not warn me, in your swift decay,
How, like the leaves, we fade and fall away?

Once past the sunny spring of youth,
  The short-lived summer over,
And autumn comes with saddening truth
  Our frailty to discover;
How slight our hold on life's supporting spray,
Whence one rude blast may hurry us away,—

To lie down with the dying leaves
  In silent dust unheeded.
Proud heart! if this thy fancy grieves,
  The humbling truth is needed.
Little it recks where the dead leaves may be,
For God's creating power can clothe again the tree.

E. H. C.

OCTOBER.

MICHAELMAS-DAISY.—An old-fashioned half-shrubby plant, which, at the period before the introduction of more showy autumn flowers, was to be found in every garden; it will grow in any soil, and may be increased by dividing the root.

LOBELIA.—Of this there are many species, that called the *scarlet cardinal* being the most frequently cultivated; it may be increased like the last.

HOLLYHOCK.—Reared from seed sown in July or August, when it will flower in the following summer; it is not commonly seen in bloom so late as October, but may be obtained at this season by cutting off the flower-stalks as soon as they appear, in which case they will probably push up new stems. The best varieties should be increased by dividing the roots early in autumn, and planting the roots thus produced in a tolerably dry place.

AGERATUM.—A useful border or bedding plant, with lavender-coloured flowers, increased by cuttings struck in silver sand, in autumn; a dozen or more cuttings may be planted in a small pot, and if protected from frost and kept tolerably dry during winter, will furnish as many plants in the following spring.

FUSCHIA.—Cuttings taken in August and September, and protected from frost during winter, will become vigorous plants in the following summer; those planted out of doors will be killed down to the ground by the first severe frost, but their roots may be kept alive by heaping ashes on the place where they are buried.

WHITE JASMINE.—Young shoots should be bent down and *layered*, and be left undisturbed for about twelve months, when they may either be trained against a wall or planted to form a bed.

DAHLIA.—The roots should be taken up in autumn, before they are injured by frost, and stored away in a dry cellar. In April, each root may be divided into as many pieces as possible, so that a portion of the old stem may remain attached to each, and every piece will soon become a fine plant. The dahlia may also be increased by cuttings taken in spring.

C. A. J.

CHRYSANTHEMUM

NOVEMBER

November.

Now let the weary earth have rest:
  Her autumn leaves are shed,
And scarce a flower that decked her breast
  But 'neath it now lies dead.

As the tired mother sleeps, at length
  Her long day's labour done,
And gathers up her wasted strength
  To meet to-morrow's sun;

So nature from her seeming death
  Fresh energy shall bring,
To give a new creation breath,
  And wake another spring.

Not unadorned in her repose;
  For loving hands have wrought
A wreath to gladden autumn's close,
  With tender mem'ries fraught—

Chrysanthemums that cluster tall,
  Like ghosts of summer flowers;
And evergreens, whose leaves recall
  The young spring's verdant hours.

Past all the gard'ner's busy schemes,
  Sowing and reaping o'er;
Rest, mother, with thy pleasant dreams,
  For thou shalt toil no more.

The wintry storms are gathering loud;
  Hark how the winds complain!
They weave for thee a snowy shroud,
  But thou shalt live again.

E. H. C.

NOVEMBER.

Chinese Chrysanthemum.—This is one of the most valuable of our ornamental plants, producing abundance of showy flowers at a season when most others are assuming their winter garb, being remarkably easy of cultivation, not particular as to soil, and endowed with a constitution which enables it to resist the most vitiated atmosphere. The varieties, which are numberless, may be classed in two groups, *large-flowered* and *Pompone:* the former having either starred spreading flowers like the double China Aster, incurved, or anemone-flowered. The Pompones bear flowers not unlike double daisies, and are in habit shorter and more bushy than the others. All the varieties are hardy and require the same treatment. The readiest method of propagating them is to plant in the open air, about March, one of the young shoots, which are then starting, with a portion of root attached. When it has attained the height of a few inches, *stop* it; that is, cut or pinch off the terminal bud. The effect of this will be to make it throw out side-shoots and assume a bushy form. As it grows taller, let it be tied to a thick stake, and it will require no further care except an abundant supply of water. Smaller plants for the greenhouse or window may be reared either from cuttings or layers. Cuttings, which should be taken in May or June, should be healthy shoots cut from the top of a stem, from five to six inches long; plant them either singly or three together in pots; shade and keep them well watered, and when they are well rooted either plunge the pots in the ground, or shift them from time to time into larger pots, and, finally, in October, give them their last shift and bring them into the house. A less troublesome method of procuring small plants is to make layers from the old plants by bending down a stem and pegging it into the ground. The end of July or beginning of August is a very good time to practise this method. The plants should be taken up with a ball of earth and potted in October. Yet smaller plants, which will, however, bloom well, may be produced by layering as late as September, or the beginning of October; but in this case the layers should be made by pegging the stems into pots previously filled with soil, which in every case should be well manured.

C. A. J.

CHRISTMAS ROSE
COTONEASTER

XERANTHEMUM
HOLLY

DECEMBER

December.

Lov'st thou thy garden still, though drear December
Has cast a shade o'er all?
Canst thou the glory of its spring remember,
Its summer joys recall?

Has it been thine to taste the perfect pleasure
That well repays his toil
Who digs, but not for gold and silver treasure,
Counting them worthless spoil

Compared with all the glad content upspringing
That flows into the breast,
Health and sweet peace to dwell together bringing,
In harmony most blest?

Thy work is hallowed by Divine direction,
E'er man had stooped to sin;
Hallowed by many a pleasant recollection,
Thy loving heart to win.

Methinks Linnæus, from his garden bower,
May bid thy work good speed;
Or gentle Cowper come at evening hour,
Nature with thee to read.

Here has the anxious spirit, solace seeking,
Fled from the world's annoy:
Here heard a voice from herb and flow'ret speaking
Of more than earthly joy.

Sweet soother of full many a moment weary,
Beloved and cherished spot,
As o'er thee summers steal and winters dreary,
Say if I love thee not!

Not quite of Paradise hath sin bereft us:
In mercy's boundless plan,
The tender love of Nature still is left us,
God's gracious gift to man.

E. H. C.

F. REMNANT & SONS,
BINDERS.