

## GARDENING NOTES

(By MR. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

## WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.

**The Kitchen Garden.**—With the advent of autumn and cooler weather, the planting in large quantities of green vegetables such as broccoli, savoy, and kale should be proceeded with. All old leaves and heads of spent cabbages require to be cleared away, leaving, however, the stumps, which will provide acceptable tender shoots later on when green vegetables are scarce. Encourage the growth of celery by an occasional watering, and when sufficiently advanced for moulding this should be attended to when the soil is dry. Care must be exercised during the moulding process to see that soil does not get into the heart of the plant; the best plan being to hold the plant in one hand and draw the soil around with the other, after which, with the spade, the earthing up to the desired height may be done. After a few additional weeks' growth, the same process may be repeated until the stalks are sufficiently blanched. Leeks also require to be planted in trenches, and moulded up. Ripe onions now may be harvested, pulling and leaving them on the ground until properly dried, and then stored away in a dry airy shed. Early seed potatoes should now be carefully selected and stored until wanted for planting; they should also be looked over now and again to see that they are properly conditioned. Keep the soil well stirred amongst growing crops to keep down weeds and allow the passage of air, which is an essential for sturdy and rapid growth.

**The Flower Garden.**—With the lawns carefully attended to by regular mowing, rolling, and watering, they should now be looking at their best. Pick off all spent flowers and thus prevent seeding; by so doing the blooming is prolonged. Put in geranium cuttings now, as they will strike freely and be well advanced by the winter; an occasional sprinkling of water and the placing of the boxes containing the cuttings in a sunny situation will be of considerable benefit to the plants. Stake and tie up dahlias and chrysanthemums, and gather all seeds required for next season's operations. Sow any hardy seeds which will withstand the winter, and thus ensure an early display. Bulbs may now be planted in well-prepared soil; a sprinkling of bonedust will prove beneficial if the soil is lacking in the necessary richness. Bulbs which have been allowed to remain in the ground should have the soil forked over them, with a little fertiliser worked in at the same time.

**The Fruit Garden.**—The gathering and marketing or storing of fruit is the principal work just now in the fruit gardens; but where possible it is desirable to cultivate the ground and free it from weeds. All useless spray of pear and apple trees should be pruned away and destroyed.

The misery of man proceeds, not from any single crush of overwhelming evil, but from small vexations continually repeated.

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## SONG OF AN EXILE.

[Subsequent to the Rebellion of 1798, James Orr, the Bard of Ballycarry, was proscribed by the minions of Government. For a short period he skulked from covert to covert; but, conscious of his own innocence, at last surrendered himself. He was for a considerable time doomed to pine in captivity; but his enemies, unable to prove any overt act of treason against him, which would have furnished a sufficient pretext for sacrificing his life, granted him the *favore* (for such it was then considered) of *transporting himself to America*. On his outward passage, he composed the following verses, on the Banks of Newfoundland.]

In Ireland 'tis evening—from toil my friends lie all,  
And weary walk home o'er the dew-spangled lea;  
The shepherd in love tunes his grief-soothing viol,  
Or visits the maid that his partner will be;  
The blithe milkmaid trips to the herd that stands lowing;  
The west richly smiles, and the landscape is glowing;  
The sad-sounding curfew, and torrent fast-flowing,  
Are heard by my fancy, though far, far at sea!

What has my eye seen since I left the green valleys,  
But ships as remote as the prospect could be?  
Unwieldy, huge monsters, as ugly as malice,  
And floats of some wreck, which with sorrow I see?  
What's seen but the fowl, that its lonely flight urges,  
The lightning, that darts through the sky-meeting surges,  
And the sad-scowling sky, that with bitter rain scourges  
This cheek care sits drooping on, far, far at sea?

How hideous the hold is!—Here, children are screaming—  
There, dames faint through thirst, with their babes on  
their knee!  
Here, down every hatch the big breakers are streaming,  
And there, with a crash, half the fixtures break free!  
Some court, some contend, some sit dull stories telling;  
The mate's mad and drunk, and the tars tasked and yelling;  
What sickness and sorrow pervade my rude dwelling!—  
A huge, floating lazaret-house, far, far at sea!

How changed all may be when I seek the sweet village:  
A hedge-row may bloom where its street used to be;  
The floors of my friends may be tortured by tillage,  
And the upstart be served by the fallen grandee;  
The axe may have humbled the grove that I haunted,  
And shades be my shield that as yet are unplanted,  
Nor one comrade live who repined when he wanted  
The sociable sufferer that's far, far at sea!

In Ireland 'tis night—on the flowers of my setting  
A parent may kneel, fondly praying for me;—  
The village is smokeless—the red moon is getting  
That hill for a throne which I hope yet to see.  
If innocence thrive, many more have to grieve for;  
Success, slow but sure, I'll contentedly live for;  
Yes, Sylvia, we'll meet, and your sigh cease to heave for  
The swain your fine image haunts, far, far at sea!

—JAMES ORR.

## COLLECT OLD STAMPS.

At present there is a great demand for old postage stamps, and a good deal of money can be derived from these small bits of waste paper. In several countries charitable persons deal with this business and send the money either directly or indirectly to good works; orphanages, asylums, or to the missionaries in foreign countries. To collect stamps is to promote *God's Glory*, if done with a right intention. Stamps will be gratefully received by Rev. Charles Schoonjans, S.J., Collège Saint-Servais, Liège (Belgium), who will also care that senders are recommended in the Holy Sacrifices and prayers specially said for their intention every month.—[Advt.]

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