

showers, of which advantage should be taken to plant out cabbages, cauliflowers, savoys, brussels sprouts, and flowering brocolies, all of which ought now to be extensively planted; for upon the exertions made at this season the limited or plentiful supply of winter vegetables will entirely depend.

Flower borders should now be exhibiting a profusion of roses, fuschias, geraniums, pinks, carnations, stocks, and sweet-williams, with many sorts of flowering bulbs and numerous varieties of lovely annuals; and though at Christmas we can neither suspend "mistletoe boughs" from the ceilings of our dwellings, nor display bunches of holly-berries, yet by the time of its arrival we shall be able to pile our tables with delicious strawberries, and revel amid the fragrance and beauty of wreaths of blooming roses—luxuries which the noblest and wealthiest of England's aristocracy cannot at this season obtain.

Greenhouse plants which have done blooming may now be removed to a cold frame, or placed under the shade of a wall or fence having a southerly aspect. The removal of these from the shelves of the house will afford room for the introduction, from the melon and cucumber frames, of such handsome flowering tender and other annuals, in pots, as balsams, cockscombs, globe amaranths, white and purple egg plants, phlox drummondii, humea elegans, gallardia picta, blue nemophila, coreopsis drummondii, sensitive plant, and other similarly ornamental and interesting varieties, all of which will add greatly to the attractions of the greenhouse, and aid materially in maintaining its continued gaiety throughout the whole of the summer and some of the months of autumn.

Vineries in which the grapes are fully set may now receive air much more freely, and fire heat ought to be entirely suspended, unless early grapes are desired, for the fruit, from this stage of their growth, will swell to a larger size under the genial influences of a well-regulated temperature produced by sunshine only. Air freely, therefore, every fine morning as soon as the sunshine sensibly raises the temperature of the house; scorched foliage—a too frequent defect—will thus be avoided, which results only from neglected morning ventilation.

As soon as the grapes have attained to a size similar to very small peas, commence slightly raising and supporting the shoulders of the bunches, after which thin out with a pair of grape-thinning scissors a full two-thirds of the unequal sized berries, thus leaving those which remain full room to swell to a large size; for the free use of the thinning scissors is an inevitable necessity when large well-colored fruit is desired.

Close in the vinery early every afternoon, syringing freely over head, thus securing a warm humid atmosphere, highly favourable to the health of the vines, and very largely conducive to the production of fine fruit.

PROVINCE OF OTAGO.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR 1863.

THE Province of Otago has, unquestionably, made the greatest progress in the acquisition of material wealth of any of the other settlements in New Zealand. There can be no doubt that this has come to pass through the very rich and extensive auriferous areas which have from time to time, within the last two years, been discovered within the defined limits of the Province, and which the collation of a few facts and figures will satisfactorily demonstrate. In the early part of 1861, Dunedin was little more than a village. It boasted of little beyond a few shops and stores, one or two merchants' warehouses, two or three hotels of insignificant dimensions, a confined school-house with a few scholars, two buildings for public worship, a watch-house, gaol, an office or two for carrying on the business of the Provincial Government, and a few private dwellings, with small pretensions to convenience or comfort. The inhabitants, chiefly from Scotland, were respectable, intelligent, industrious, and content; their desires were few, and no more than what the resources of the Province supplied, aided with an occasional importation of manufactured goods from the mother country. The streets were unmade, the formation of footpaths not thought of; drainage there was none, and in wet weather no town ever presented such a miserable appearance of discomfort and utter wretchedness as did Dunedin. While in this embryo state the announcement was made that a rich gold-field had been discovered. Soon the rush came. Diggers from Victoria, New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and the adjacent colonies, and with them ship loads of every description of goods, brought over by merchants, traders, capitalists, and speculators. The result of such a great movement was, that hundreds of allotments of land were eagerly bought up, leased, or rented. Shops, stores, warehouses, dwellings, offices, and public and private buildings were run up with the marvellous rapidity which pertains only to gold countries. On the 1st of January of the present year there were one thousand six hundred and fifty houses, assessed at the annual value of £22,000. In September of the present year, the number of rateable buildings increased to two thousand seven hundred and fifty. The city now extends from the North-east Valley to beyond the cemetery at the south end of Princes-street, a distance of about three miles and a half, and from the edge of the bay to the summit of the hills, which defines the back side of Dunedin. The increase to the population since December 31st of last year to September of this, amounts to 21,000 souls, allowing for departures. Taking a moderate estimate, the influx of population for October, November, and December cannot be fixed at less than 16,000 souls—making a total of 37,000 added to the population of Otago in twelve months—a ratio of increase only rivalled in California in 1847-8, and Victoria in 1851-2. As a consequence, the rents of town building allotments, of shop stores, and every description of business premises, have gone up to fabulous rates, which, to a very serious extent, has retarded the prosperity of Dunedin; for it has truly been said that the trading community of the city has been working during the last eighteen months for the benefit of landlords, of which a large proportion are absentees. In every part of the city the accumulation of wealth, as evinced in the numerous magnificent and costly buildings, is observable. There are two theatres, large public gardens, two concert halls, four or five long rooms attached to the leading hotels, capable of accommodating from three hundred to a thousand people; seven insurance offices—fire, life, marine, and guarantee; three banks—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales being two