Che Ploomfield Cimes.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

Mysteries of a seed.

Have you ever considered how wonderful a thing the seed of a plant is? It is the miracle of miracles. God said "Let there be plants yielding seed," and it is further added, each one " after bla kind."

The great naturalist, Cuvier, thought that the germs of all past, present, and future generations of seeds were contained one within the other, as if packed in a succession of boxes. Other learned men have explained this mystery in a different way. But what signify all their explanations? Let them explain it as they will, the wonder remains the same, and we must still look upon the reproduction of the seed as a continual miracle.

Is there upon earth a machine, is there a palace, is there even a city, which contains so much that is wonderful as is inclosed in a single seed-one grain of corn, one little brown appleseed, one small seed of a tree-picked up, perhaps by a bird for her little ones the smallest seed a poppy or a bluebell, or even one of the seeds that float about in the air invisible to our eyes! There is a world of marvels and brilliant beauties hidden in each of these tiny seeds. Consider their immense number, the perfect separation of the different kinds, their power of life and resurrection and their wonderful fruitfulness!

Consider, first, their number. About a hundred and fifty years ago, the celebrated Lineus, "the father of Botany," reckoned about 8,000 different kinds of plants; and he then thought that the whole number existing could not much exceed 10,000. But, a hundred years after him, M. de Candolle, of Geneva, described 40,000 kinds of plants; and at a later period he counted 60,000, then 80,-600, and he supposed it possible that the number might even amount to 100,000

Well, let us ask, have these 100,000 kinds of plants ever failed to bear the right seed? Have they ever deceived us? Has a seed of wheat ever yielded barley, or the seed of a poppy grown up into a sunflower? Has a sycamore tree ever sprung from an acorn, or a beechtree from a chestnut? A little bird may carry away the small seed of a sycamore in its beak to feed its nestlings, and, on the way, may drop it to the ground. The tiny seed may spring up and grow where it fell unnoticed, and in sixty years it may become a magnificent tree, under the shade of which the flocks of the valleys and their shepherds may

Consider next the wonderful power of life and resurrection bestowed on the seeds of plants, so that they may be preserved from year to year, and even from century to century.

Let a child put a few seeds in a drawer, and shut them up, and sixty years afterwards, when his bair is white and his step tottering, let him take one of these seeds and sow it in the ground, nd soon after he will see it spring up into new life, and become a young, fresh, and beautiful plant.

M. Jouannet relates that in the year 1835 several old Celtic tombs were disovered near Bergoric. Under the head of each of the dead bodies there was found a small square stone or brick, with a hole in it, containing a few seeds, which had been planted there beside the dead by the heathen friends who had uried them, perhaps 1,500 or 1,700 years before. These seeds were carefully sow-id by those who found them—and what, think you, was seen to spring up from his dust of the dead?-beautiful sunowers, blue cornflowers, and clover, earing blossoms as bright and sweet as se weven into wreaths by merry dren playing in the fields.

ome years ago a vase, hermetically led, was found in a mummy pit in ppt, by Wilkinson, who sent it to British Museum. The librarian , having unfortunately broken it, wered in it a few grains of wheat f one or two peas, old, wrinkled, and hard as stone. The peas were planted refu'ly under glass on the 4th of ne, 1844, and at the end of thirty days old seeds were seen to spring up new life. They had been buried ably about 3,000 years ago (perhaps time of Moses,) and had slept all Ime apparently dead, yet still liv-In the dust of the tomb.

not the springing of the seed an lem of the resurrection of the dead? udingly it is mentioned by the stle Paul in I Cor. XV., where, from pringing of the seed, he explains doctrine of the resurrection unto

The poultry should be fed meat se or four times a week with their food, when, the ground being there are neither worms nor hifor them to pick up about the

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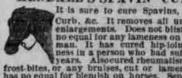
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