



Vol. XIX.—No. 930.]

OCTOBER 23, 1897.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.

TWO-ACRE ESTATES, OR VILLA FARMS.

THE HOMESTEADS OF THE FUTURE.

By DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

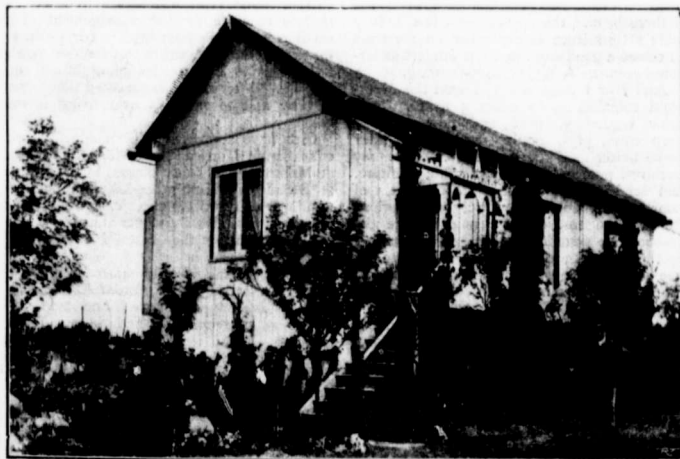
THERE are two weighty questions much debated at present, in every family where there are young people of both or either sex growing up, and needing some provision to be made for their future living and maintenance. If the family fortune be not enough to supply more than a certain amount of education, or a few hundreds of pounds for an outfit and settlement, the questions of "Where shall we send him? What shall we do with her?" become even more puzzling still. Formerly it was only the boys who had to be thought of, now the girls also claim their share of education; which, if not professional, must be one of an advanced and excellent kind, or they cannot expect to compete with their fellows in life. Every girl does not want to be a doctor, and the profession of a nurse is much overstocked; the Civil Service will not provide for every one; and though music and the arts take some, perhaps, off our hands, we are still confronted with the question, for boys as well as girls: How can they make a living in the world of to-day? What a relief from these anxieties it would be were it once demonstrated without a doubt, that an opening



VIEW OF FOUNDER'S HOUSE, WITH OUTSIDE SEAT FOR WAYFARERS.

A book-cupboard is fixed above it, over the doors of which are these words—

*"A quiet resting-place—
Refreshment for the mind."*



LARGE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STOREHOUSE WITH DWELLING-ROOMS OVER.

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exists at our very doors, without any very great expenditure of money, which would answer equally for ourselves, if we needed it, or for our children; and that the training is one both inexpensive and not difficult to obtain.

Now one of the things which has been talked of for years, discussed from every possible point of view, and finally recommended by a Prime Minister of England, as a panacea for the distresses of the farmer, has been, what is known as *La petite culture*, the cultivation of fruit, flowers and vegetables, in fact, any and everything which can be grown in a small way by personal supervision and personal labour on a small amount of ground. Only a few weeks ago, as you have probably seen in the daily papers, at a Horticultural Show held in the grounds of Hawarden Castle, Mr. Gladstone spoke on this subject, and read a letter which had been sent to him by a farmer who had adopted his advice about small culture, and had found it useful and profitable too. I have cut out the letter because it is valuable as proving the case from the farmer's side. The letter is as follows:—

"DEAR SIR,—Some years ago, in a speech made at Hawarden, you suggested that, under