

MY GARDEN.

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It is small ; but it is wonderful what a little spot will produce by good cultivation. Indeed, the very idea of a garden is, ordinary land under special cultivation. A young friend in Nova Scotia wrote me once, that he had just got where he experienced a joy and luxury in farming, by having a few acres so well cultivated as to produce more than large farms around him.

Rev. Dr. Goodspeed's garden in Toronto, is a wonderful illustration of what, by proper cultivation, a little plot can be made to do

And so it is with some denominations of Christians, such as the Moravians, who remind one of the description of Joseph, a vine hanging over the wall. A small denomination, but sending out more missionaries into the world than any other.

So with some churches, like the little Plattsville Baptist Church, that does more a great deal for the support and spread of the gospel than many large, and even wealthy churches.

So, too, with institutions of learning. Some comparatively small and obscure ones, like Acadia College in Nova Scotia send out more strongly developed men intellectually and morally than many large and well endowed universities.

And so, too, with individuals. As the old lady said of her garden, "Yes, its small, but it's deep—even to the heart of the earth. And it's high, as the very zenith of heaven."

And thus some lives, hemmed in to narrow spheres, it may be, rooting deep, grow high, and like Bunyan in Bedford jail, John, on the Isle of Patmos, or, the mothers of Augustine, Wesley and Spurgeon, send out their boughs and fruits to earth's and time's utmost limits. Such may be the case even with poor soil to begin with.

A merchant in St. John, N.B., took up a piece of rocky wooded swamp, and by underdraining, manuring and cultivating it well, he not only out-did, but astounded all the surrounding farmers. How true has this been in the intellectual, moral and spiritual world. By proper cultivation, some of the lowest castes in India are becoming superior to the high castes, and cannibal races are ranking with civilized nations.

Take an individual case, one of the most hopeless, such as Laura Bridgman. Blind, deaf and dumb, shut out seemingly from any possible enlightenment. And yet by persistent and skilful effort and cultivation, she became a very intelligent and useful woman.

The garden is my garden, and being mine gives me a great deal more interest in it, interest in properly cultivating and fencing it. I find that leaving my garden unprotected may cause more ruin in one hour, than could be repaired in a whole season. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines, for our vines are tender, and have tender grapes." Often the more small and unnoticeable the enemy to the garden, the more dangerous. Such as the insect gnawing at the root or heart of the plant, unnoticed, or those that assume the very color or form of the plant, in order to feed upon it undetected. Plausible errors and virtuous sins, so to speak, are often the most fatal destroyers.

I notice too, that however rich the soil in my garden, the flowers, fruits and vegetables have to be sown, or planted, and cultivated, but the weeds need no such labor or attention. They grow unsolicited and uncared for, and even when eradicated, again and again, will reappear, of the self-same character. The cultivation of good and the opposition to evil, seem to be necessarily constant and continuous.

One thing more, among many that I shall not take time further to notice, in the cultivation of my garden, is, that the time to eradicate the weeds by pulling them out by the roots, is, after a good moistening, mellowing shower. Evils that seem ineradicable, or only to be broken off, immediately to spring up again, like tobacco using, or drinking, or other unconquerable habits, are often easily overcome, when the heart has been softened by God's grace and Spirit. After all, God and man are the two great factors in gardening.

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