

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

A DAY IN THE "GARDEN CITY."

If there is a city on this continent, or any other, that deserves the above name, it is Rochester, N.Y. It is doubtful if there is a city anywhere in the world that has so many pretty homes in it. The people seem to vie with each other in keeping their gardens neat. There is an almost total absence of rows or terraces of houses. Even double houses are rare. It seems as though every householder coveted a little horticultural domain of his own, and had secured it. Some of these domains, of course, are extensive. On the avenues, where wealth has congregated, there are spacious lawns and gardens; that is the case in all cities. But the beauty of this city is, that the smaller and quite unpretentious residences have surroundings of tastefulness and beauty which many palatial mansions in other cities cannot boast.

This is no doubt largely owing to the fact that Rochester has long been a sort of centre for such businesses as tend to develop the popular taste in the direction indicated. Some of the finest nurseries on this continent are located here. James Vick, the prince of living seedsmen and florists, has long resided here, and built up what is probably the largest business of the kind in the world. With extensive nurseries enviroing the city, each having handsome specimen grounds, with roses, tulips, asters, lilies and multitudinous other flowers blooming by the acre, as they do literally in Vick's extensive grounds, it would be strange, indeed, if the people at large did not catch the spirit of horticultural enterprise which is busy all around them, and "in their very midst," as the old-time phrase has it.

The well-known firm of Elwanger & Barry has the largest nursery here, and it is probably the most extensive in the United States, comprising, as it does, 500 acres or more. The specimen grounds, which are kept in the finest possible order, form virtually a public park, and there is this feature about it, that whereas most public parks contain only ordinary specimens of the commoner trees and shrubs, this is stocked with the best specimens of the choicest varieties, and forms an interesting *arboretum* which will well repay attentive study. A person with an eye for the beautiful could spend a considerable time in the contemplation of not a few single specimens, and feel well paid for so doing. An hour or so employed in hurriedly looking at such a place as this great nursery is simply tantalizing.

There are several other nurseries here that well repay a visit. I had but a hasty glance at those of H. E. Hooker, W. S. Little, Gould Bros., Frost & Co., which are the leading ones; but, besides these, there are a large number of smaller concerns. In addition to the nurserymen, there are dealers in nursery stock, who obtain the best plants and scions from all parts of the world, and employ skilled practical nurserymen to grow them to a saleable size for them. Prominent among these are Chase Bros. and Geo. A. Stone, of the firm of Morris, Stone & Wellington, well known in Canada. Their packing grounds present a lively spectacle, with some one hundred and fifty men hard at work in each of them putting up the fall orders.

I, of course, visited the mammoth seed establishment and grounds of Mr. Vick. Although the genial proprietor was absent, he was well represented by his right-hand man and general manager, Mr. Fuller. This is a vast concern. A more complete establishment could hardly be imagined for the purpose intended. Everything is done on the premises, even to the printing and despatching of mails. In fact there is a United States post-office located in this building for the

delivery and despatch of the mails received and made up here. In the busy season there are sometimes from 2,500 to 3,000 letters a day for Mr. Vick, most of them containing money or money orders. During the flush times, two men are constantly employed opening letters and taking care of the remittances contained in them.

Mr. John Charlton, a practical nurseryman, who works only a few acres of land, not far from Vick's place, is propagating for Mr. Pocklington, of Sandy Hill, N.Y., the now famous white grape which bears his name; and the best item in my day's work or pastime—it was both—consisted of a critical inspection of the plants and fruit. A bunch of the Pocklington was sent me from the Provincial Fair at London, where it was on exhibition. My first impression on opening the paper box that contained it was that so fine a bunch must have been raised under glass. This impression was not lessened when I ate the berries. A feeling of incredulity was left, which was not completely dissipated until I saw and tasted the clusters actually growing in Mr. Charlton's open grounds. The readers of the *Advertiser* have often been cautioned not to be carried away with nursery novelties, but to wait for thorough testing. Well, I deliberately let off the brakes from the Pocklington, and say to all who take any interest in grape culture, get it without delay. On an eighty-foot trellis of vines, only set out twenty-eight months, and from which many fine specimen bunches have been culled for the fall exhibitions now past, there still remained such a crop as I never saw before on vines of the same age. I have been considerably around among vineyards, nurseries and private gardens, but this display of Pocklingtons, both as to quantity and quality of fruit, far excels anything I have ever witnessed. These young vines were on the trellis last winter, one of the severest on record, yet slender twigs were laden with the choicest fruit. This one fact speaks volumes. The Concord and other varieties were growing side by side with them, but it far surpassed them all in every quality that can recommend a good out-door grape. Almost the only objection I was previously inclined to think might justly lie against the Pocklington was completely disproved by a personal inspection of it. I refer to an alleged tendency of the berries to drop. It will be admitted that by October 12, a grape that can be depended upon to ripen in this climate must be dead ripe. Well, I shook the clusters roughly, and am free to say that the berries are no more inclined to drop than any other out-door variety I am acquainted with. On the whole, I consider this grape the most valuable addition to our list which has been made since the advent of the Concord. It ripens a little earlier than that well-known variety, and its rich, golden colour makes it highly attractive. I am glad to add my personal testimony to that of such high Pomological authorities as Hon. M. P. Wilder, of Boston; C. W. Campbell, of Delaware, Ohio; Hubbard, of Fredonia, and Hooker, of Rochester, N.Y., in commendation of a grape which I hope to see largely cultivated in every part of Canada that can ripen a Concord. I have two Pocklingtons in my own garden, and only wish I had two dozen.

—*Canadian Rural Editorial Correspondence of Western Advertiser.*

CHIP DIRT FOR TREES.

The great value of "chip dirt" for spreading around young and newly-set fruit trees, imparting to them double vigour in growth, is simply the benefit derived from good mulching. Decayed chips, leaf-mould and dried muck are all quite similar in their nature, and as they tend strongly to hold the moisture in the soil below, and cannot form a crust on the surface, they are well fitted

for the purpose; but as planters generally neglect this stirring, or perform it in an inefficient manner, while the action of the decayed vegetable matter cannot be hurt by neglect, it has a special advantage over other modes of treating the young trees.

LATE AUTUMN GARDEN WORK.

The question of cold frames is not sufficiently understood, and a word upon it is important at this time. They are constructed much in the same way as hot-beds, though the purpose they serve is somewhat different. A hot-bed is a frame with sash, in which manure is placed and covered with soil. The heat from the fermenting manure and the confined air of the frames force the young plants into a vigorous growth. The cold frame is also a frame with sash, but not furnished with bottom heat produced by the manure, and the plants are placed in it simply to be protected from severe cold and sudden changes in the weather. Cold frames are to preserve an even temperature, and one that plants like lettuce and cabbage can bear throughout the winter months. The frames may be constructed at a trifling cost, using plank twelve inches wide for the back and one eight inches wide for the front, placed as far apart as the length of the sashes used. By the aid of these frames an early stock may be gained of these vegetables, the market value of which depends greatly upon their coming as quickly after spring opens as possible. It is the first man in the market that gets his own price, and the last one must take whatever he can get for his labour. Many more cold frames could be used throughout the country with profit.

MORAL EFFECTS OF THE GARDEN.

We recommend to all women who are fortunate enough to have a piece of land at their command to cultivate a vegetable garden. The culture of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currant and garden vegetables is as delightful and profitable as anything in which a woman can be engaged in. She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers. All the better for that. A snowball in this corner, and a rose in that, a dahlia bed there and a moss border here, will not be out of place. Only let the substantial and useful constitute the chief part. A touch of the ornate, like a ribbon on a good bonnet, is not in the least objectionable. In all the schools study botany. It is healthful, pleasing and useful. The principles of horticulture are the principles of botany put into practice. Farmers study agriculture, why should not their wives and daughters study horticulture? The employment is both healthful and pleasant. What woman cannot raise beets, tomatoes, melons, onions, lettuce, and furnish her own table with them? What woman cannot plant a raspberry bush, or currant, or gooseberry, and tend it well? The experiment is both pleasing and profitable.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* says that the proper way to eradicate those troublesome weeds, wild carrot and oxeye daisy, is thorough cultivation of the soil. Both plants, with man's permission, will take possession of neglected spots, but have no place—and seem to desire none—in course of good farming.

AN apple tree should under no circumstances be trimmed when frozen. Cut two limbs from the same tree, of equal size, one in February, when the tree is frozen, and the other the following June, and the one cut in June will heal more and better during the season than the one cut in February. The best time to trim apple trees is from June to August.