

ARTICLE III.

NOTES OF A WILD GARDEN.

By G. U. HAY.

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About ten years ago the idea occurred to me of planting a wild garden in which should be shown, as far as the conditions would warrant, the peculiarities and extent of the flora of New Brunswick. The garden plot covers an extent of nearly two acres and is well adapted for the purpose intended. It is situated about eleven miles from the city, on a broken piece of ground overlooking the St. John river. In one corner is a meadow, made up of alluvial deposit brought from the neighboring hills, and adapted for plants usually found on intervales. Through this meadow flows a small stream fed by springs on the hills which lie to the westward. The idea of planting a native arboretum was first suggested by finding in this meadow a group of small trees and shrubs eight in number, forming a pretty little arbor on the bank of the curving stream. The plants consisted of the cedar, the white and yellow birch, American ash or rowan-tree, water alder, mountain maple, balsam fir and black spruce. One could stand in the centre of this arbor and touch one-tenth of all our forest trees and shrubs. When nature had made such a beginning it was surely a broad hint for me to do the rest.

When the remainder of the two acre plot came to be explored, possibilities were found to exist for something more than an arboretum; and the idea of a wild garden gradually came, which might include most of our flowering plants, all our native ferns, and perhaps in time a representative gathering of our mosses, lichens and fungi. Rising from the meadow toward the south, within the bounds of the plot, is a hill whose slope is covered with a young but quite ample growth of spruce, fir, birch, maple, etc., the deciduous trees largely prevailing, and giving to the soil each year an abundant supply of leaf mould. Half way up this hill, in the centre of the grove, is a depression which