

On Horticulture.

The period is now at hand, in which strict attention to the delightful and profitable employment of gardening is particularly called for. We have often with great regret, and a feeling somewhat allied to shame, heard our Canadian Farmers reproached with being sluggards in regard to their gardens. There is certainly much excuse for those who have a farm to farm out of the wilderness, for some years so far neglecting or delaying the cultivation of a garden. But to those who have their land well cleared and are in possession of all the appliances necessary, such as good health, good soil, and ample time, we say it is a stigma and disgrace for them not to be also the owners of a nicely cultivated and trimly kept garden and orchard; this reproach we trust will soon be entirely removed. With a view to aid or accelerate the fulfilment of such a desirable object, and to shew how much salutary influence horticulture has upon the human character and health, and how much pleasure *as well as profit* is derived from it, we had an article prepared for our present number—but finding some very appropriate and beautiful remarks in the address of Dr Darlington, to the Horticultural Society of Chester, United States, we have substituted them in its stead:

“Horticulture, in the comprehensive sense in which the term is now understood, is unquestionably one of the most elegant and refined—as it is one of the most interesting—of earthly pursuits. It has for its especial objects, the production of the choicest fruits and vegetables—the training of the most ornamental trees and shrubbery—the culture of the sweetest and most beautiful flowers—and the arrangement of the whole in accordance with the principles of a refined, disciplined, unsophisticated taste. It involves, in short, all that is connected with comfort and beauty around our dwellings—all that can gratify the palate, delight the eye, or regale the most fastidious of the senses. As an *enlightened Agriculture* indicates a superior stage of civilization, in the march of human society—blending, as it does, scientific illustration with every utilitarian process, so a *perfect Horticulture* may be regarded as the crowning attainment of an intellectual and polished people.

Dedicated to the culture and improvement of the choicest productions of the vegetable creation, it is a pursuit which requires the united qualifications of practical dexterity and scientific skill—with a correct perception of the appropriate and beautiful. And while it thus exalts, and promotes, the highest mental accomplishments, it at the same time represses the more sordid or greivelling passions, and cherishes the purer aspirations of the human heart. What

can be more propitious to elevation of thought, or more congenial with purity of mind—when rightly considered—than the varied attractions of an elegant Garden? It is the place of all others—of a temporary character—best fitted to refine the feelings, and sublimate the affections. *A Garden* was the preselected by Divine Wisdom, as the appropriate residence of Man, while in the state of primeval innocence: and if ever, on this earth, Man should far improve as to qualify himself for a *Paradise regained*, we may fairly infer that the scene of terrestrial bliss will, again, be a perfect and beautiful *Garden*.

That the habitual association with interesting plants and flowers exerts a salutary influence on human character, is a truth universally felt and understood. No one ever dreams of any possibility of mistake, in estimating the disposition of those who delight in gardens, rural walks and hours, and the culture of elegant shade trees and shrubbery. Who ever anticipated boorish rudeness or met with incivility, among the enthusiastic votaries of *Floa*? Was it ever known, the rural residence, tastefully planned, and appropriately adorned with floral beauties, was not the abode of refinement and intelligence? Even the splendid display of blossoms in a window—or the contrasting of a honey suckle, round a cottage door—is an unmistakable evidence of gentle spirits, and an improved humanity, within.

“While our agriculture fellow citizens may justly pride themselves on the condition and product of their *fields*,—numbers of them have been utterly neglectful of their *Orchards and Gardens*; have discovered no manner of taste in the arrangements around their dwellings. There are yet many instances, in Chester county, of tolerably cultivated farms, on which there is scarcely any visible evidence of improvement;—no horticulture except a paltry, weedy, neglected kitchen garden; no well-selected Orchard of fruit trees; no grassward nor clustering flowers nor ornamental shrubbery, around the farm-house; not even a fruit shade-tree, to protect the dwelling from the glare of the summer’s sun.”

“Too often we may see the residence of a substantial farmer, naked and brooding, as it were, one of his open tree-less fields,—without so much as a pasade to keep the stock at a respectful distance from his doors—the persecuted contending helplessly against a swarm of under the windows of his sitting-room, and ending, as to a place of refuge, into the narrow window afforded by the building itself;—while arranged swine are either wallowing in the dirt of the kitchen—or wantonly rooting up the way at the very entrance of his dwelling.”

“How repugnant is such a scene to every feeling of refinement and comfort! How offensive to every corporeal sense as well as to every sensual fitness and propriety? What can be expected from a family, raised under circumstances so unpropitious to the formation of correct habits, or the cultivation of the finer feelings?—The children so brought up, may, indeed, be fitted to degenerate from such a home—and be prepared to