

the original trout brooks, that once teemed with speckled beauties, and might easily be re-stocked with a finny population. A natural grazing farm, there is no reason why it should not yield "fish, flesh and fowl," together with a modicum of the "staff of life," as well as a supply of some of its luxuries.

There are many neglected places in various parts of the country that may be bought for "an old song," and converted into productive farms and pleasant homes, under the guidance of a little taste and common sense. Many look upon architecture and decoration very much as they do upon the forms of fashionable and court life. They are well enough for the rich and great, but unsuited to the common people. Yet, as true politeness is a thing of the heart, and a part of the character, it is to a certain extent independent of particular forms. So in architecture there is a sense of beauty and of fitness quite apart from the mere display of what wealth can do. The cheapest, humblest structure can be built either in defiance of good taste or in conformity with it. In other words, it can be made either ugly or pretty at will. If ugliness be its characteristic, it will repel and cause painful sensations. If it be pretty, it will excite pleasurable feelings, for "a thing of beauty is a joy forever."

TASTEFUL COUNTRY HOMES.

How the entire face of the country would be improved if, instead of unsightly structures, beautiful ones were erected in every case! The ready objection is the cost of adornment. But often this does not apply. There is beauty of outline that does not involve extra cost over and above plainness or ugliness of outline. And if it should cost a little more to make a place look beautiful, it is worth the outlay for two reasons.

1. The pleasure it yields. Every survey of it awakens a feeling of gratification. Nor is this a mere passing emotion. It enters largely into the creation of that love of home which is very desirable should take a deep, strong hold of every human heart. We spend freely for pleasure in other ways—for pleasure that is brief and transient—why not spend in this direction for a lasting pleasure, and one that tells on love of home.

2. The value thus added to property. A beautiful place will sell for more than an unsightly one, even though the accommodation be the same. It is worth more. There is a felt, acknowledged value about this kind of thing. It has an appreciable, solid element of worth in it—an actual marketable value. Therefore the cost of it is money invested, not money thrown away.

Much may be done by way of improving unsightly buildings. A little alteration, rearrangement of fences, painting or whitewashing, tree-planting and, what is very easily done, covering ill-looking structures with climbing plants, are methods of doing this. Some of these methods cost very little. A root of clematis transplanted from the

woods, a climbing rose, kindly bestowed by a friend, a grape vine, price twenty-five cents, are examples of cheap and easy ornamentation. A porch, or verandah, a bit of trellis work, a rustic arbor, a neat fence, a pretty gate, are also examples of another class. It is a mistake to suppose that nothing can be done without great outlay; and it is also a mistake to grudge all expenditure for the beautiful. I counsel no extravagant ornamentation, but greatly desire to see a love of the beautiful more generally cultivated. It will stir up the spirit of improvement, and lead to constant endeavor in the way of multiplying the conveniences and comforts of life.

Country houses especially need the hand of taste about them. They are not hidden and protected from view as are many buildings none too good-looking in closely-built towns and cities. They are exposed to the full view of all passers-by. This is a strong reason why they should be made pleasing to the eye. There is also this consideration, that dwellers in the country cannot turn away from their own unattractive-looking structures to those of a more gratifying character, as people who live in towns and cities can do. They largely make their own world, and are left in the main to their own resources. Hence the importance of devising ways and means to render their surroundings cheerful and lovely, so that life in the midst of them shall not be devoid of charms.

NAMING FARMS.

I am in favor of naming farms. It connects pleasant associations with them. There is likely to be more of the home feeling on the part of the family if the place has a nice name, instead of being simply known as lot number—, in concession—. If the farm becomes noted for a particular product, or breed of animals, a distinctive reputation is more easily established. There is a grander sense of proprietorship when a place is named. Before, it was only a lot; now, it is a domain. From being a mere farm, it rises to the rank of an estate. My farm was originally called "Forest Hill." But this name was "filched away from it some time during its period of tenancy, and given to the adjacent farm. I am not sorry for this. "Forest Hill" may have been appropriate once, but it would be a misnomer now. The hill is covered with an orchard in a state of decay, and in the hands of its proprietor will be crowned into lawn, shrubbery and gravel drives. Having no name, the question early arose what to call it. Now this was perplexing. Grand names presented themselves, but modesty should have some voice even in the naming of a farm. Names redolent of "high farming" were also rejected, lest the outcome should be less brilliant than the inception. Sentimental names might grow distasteful when the fit of feeling that dictated them had passed away. At last I settled down on