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one waxing as another wanes. I think the cultivated garden should follow the wild plan, and, while it must yield flowers in some part during the whole growing season, it ought not to be coerced and stuffed like pate geese, and every bed expected to be in full bloom at all times.

Besides, this constant pulling up and replanting entails labor not within the power of the commuter's wife, who, if she is wise, plans as far as possible for the permanent, so if she is obliged to neglect her flowers for a time, garden baldness will not result.

Evan says that if gardening is to be my relaxation and a pleasure, I must pursue it, but be very careful that it does not get the upper hand and pursue me, for he has seen this turning of tables not only cause the downfall of many gardens, but of country homes, as well.

If, a few days ago, Cris had put the sand where he was directed, I should have planted my bulbs in the wrong place. During the delay, Evan discovered that the grassy stretch outside the study and windows of our den, where father tramps to and fro and smokes when he is thinking, looked bare, and something was needed to shield the foundation of the house.

This is a dry and sheltered nook, and an ideal location for bulbs, if they are planted well forward of the path and drip-line of the eaves. Evan has marked out two curving beds that follow the line of the path that goes to the rear door, and I am massing all my bulbs in them—daffodils, narcissus, hyacinths, tall late tulips, the golden-banded auratum, pure white madonna (candidum), and pink and crimson spotted Japan lilies. I shall plant them in groups, not rows, according to height, rather than color, so that, by scattering some portulacca seed in June, the ground will be covered beneath the tall stalks of the later flowers, and we shall have color under the windows from April until October. There are no plants more healthy, sturdily brilliant in bloom, and unlikely to disappoint, than the bulb tribe.

These are the only two flower-beds to be allowed out of strict garden limits, as we have decided that all the other decorations grouped about the house must be tufts of eulalia, various shrubs, and groups of scillas, daffodils, peonies, and iris set in the grass. The older shrubs we have in plenty—great masses of lilacs, syringas, and snowballs filling every corner and overarching the walk. Our ancestors were aided by their usual common sense regarding economy of labor when they gathered their little home gardens in a corner, often fencing them in from the rest of the land. Here the flowers could be considered as a whole, he loved, tended, watered, and protected from insect enemies without waste of energy.

Upon this same principle I must collect my flower family under one roof, so to speak, keeping them in such order that I may not only enjoy them freely, but minister easily to their needs quite out of range of highway criticism. Not that I object to being seen weeding, watering, tying, and insecting in a perspiring and collarless condition, but I do not wish to be pounced upon by every patient that calls and be expected to take them into my sanctuary, there to prowl and despoil me of garden privacy or flowers, after the custom of the idly curious. It is something of a responsibility, of course, to be one's own gardener, but an infinite satisfaction withal to feel that the making, and even the marring, is within one's own grasp. That is, as far as things agricultural are ever within the power of a mere human. For as a humbling and God-fearing occupation, none can exceed the gardener's. Mother Earth has ways of trying and proving the temper, or lack of it, that cannot be surpassed for variety.

(To be continued.)

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Mrs. Smith was interviewing a cook. "Yes," she said, at last, "I will engage you, providing your references are satisfactory. By the way, I suppose you have references." "Well, ma'am, I did have some, but I tore them up." "Dear me!" said Mrs. Smith, "surely that was a very silly thing to do"; at which the cook replied, "Well, ma'am, you wouldn't have thought so if you had read them."