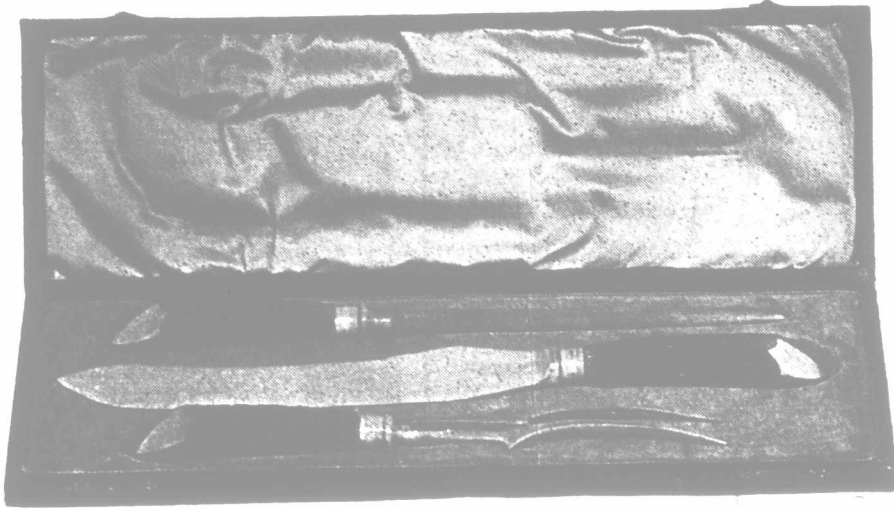


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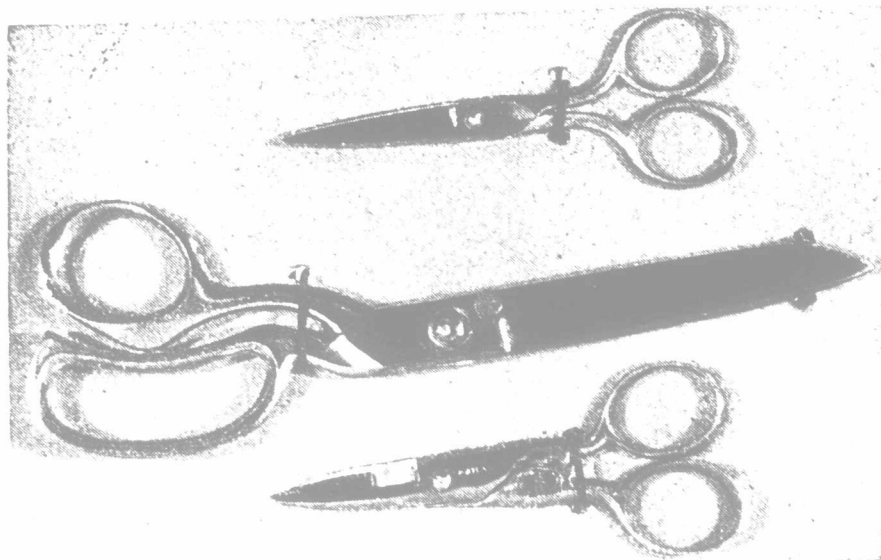
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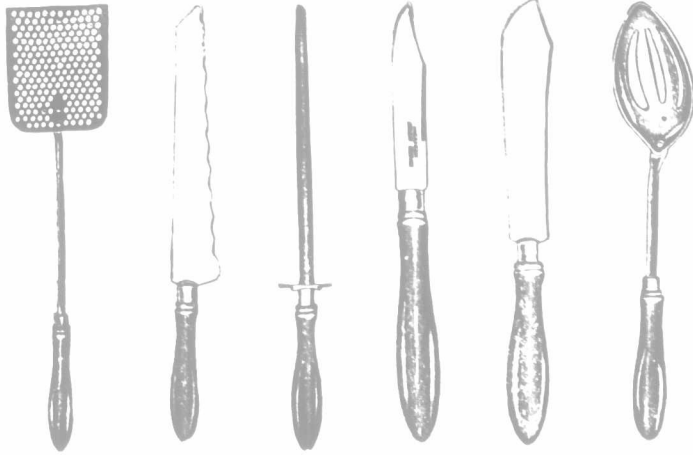
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without being an antique, is of that respectable no-period style of the forties, when we began to forsake good, foreign models, and grope for ourselves—a style that is best summed up in the words Early American. Strange to say, his plan does not satisfy me. It is the dearest, sunniest, homiest house in the world, and yet to turn the acre of ground that immediately surrounds it into the copy of an Italian, Dutch or old English garden would be like enclosing it in a practical joke so cruel as to wound its most scared sensibilities. Quite like proffering Uncle Sam himself a cardinal's hat and cloak for daily use, or forcing him to wear his own beaver with the uniform of a French field marshal.

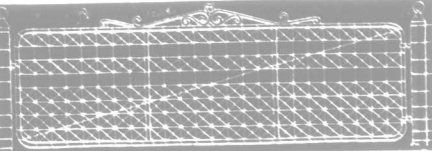
"What is an American garden?" I never heard of such a thing," asked Mrs. Jenks-Smith, the good-natured chateleine of the new show place, The Bluffs, on the river-bank, to which Chris has transferred his tal-

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ent. I told her that I used the term in relation to my bit of garden ground framed in the hillside woods, of which it had originally been a part; that it was to be itself, and not distorted into a feeble imitation of the classic gardens of other days and times; that I would not have it tricked out with the wearisome, formal, farfetched beds that caused Bacon to groan, even if the cost did

not make such a thing impossible for commuters of moderate means. The last reason was within her comprehension.

"I know such things are very expensive," she continued, with a sigh. "You wouldn't believe what our Italian garden cost, with digging out and filling in. My dear, we had to fill up thirteen feet deep in one spot, and piping the water for the pools,

and after that the engine to run the fountain, and the electric plant to light up at night. For of course the trees are so young yet that there's no shade, and it's perfectly impossible to go out there in the daytime. And it was so thoughtless, too, in our landscapist, this season he had yel-

low flowers that close at night put in one of the most conspicuous places, and so some of the best effects are spoiled. "I think I shall have to coax your husband next season to fit us up with a list of high blooming things. I suppose he'd be reasonable to a neighbor. By the way, my dear, has it occurred to you what a grand advertisement for him it would be to have a good showy Italian garden on this hillside, and his name and business address on a rustic sign just below? It can be seen a mile off from the cars.

"Garden wouldn't match the house? Neither did ours, but we