

The Garden.

TREES OUT OF PLACE.

There are many such. Among these are nearly all trees planted in a kitchen-garden. Cherry, and plum, and peach, and standard pear trees are often set on the outer border, or by the side of the cross-walks. When small, they look pretty, and do little harm; but soon they stretch upward and spread outward, shading much ground devoted to growing vegetables, and their roots, ramifying far and wide, feed upon the rich food designed for other things. When such trees become large and handsome, the owner feels reluctant to cut them down; and so he lives on from year to year, the trees, perhaps, running to wood more than to fruit, and his garden being only moderately productive of vegetables.

No trees of this sort should be allowed within a garden. They should be placed in a yard or small orchard by themselves, where they can receive appropriate care. The only trees which may be admitted there are, perhaps, a few dwarf pears (to be kept as true dwarfs), and these should be set on borders, with walks between them and the vegetable compartments. They should also be so well fed in their own borders, that they will not run abroad for forage. Of course, currants, and gooseberries, and raspberries may be set in similar situations.

Trees are misplaced, too, when planted just outside of one's garden-fence. If set on any other side than the north, they obstruct the sunlight, and on every side they do harm by the spread of their hungry roots. Superficial observers are little aware how great this injury is. If they should uncover the roots of these trees (supposing them to be apple or forest trees), they would find them extending under the fence and into the garden for thirty or fifty feet. They run into the garden-soil the more greedily because of its richness.

If trees must be set within ten feet of a garden-fence, the soil should be removed every other year along the fence-line, and the roots cut off. It would also be well to fill up the trench with gravel or stiff clay. A better way still would be to keep the trees from thirty to forty feet away from the fence, for they would answer the purpose of wind-breaks there about as well as nearer to the garden.

It is nearly impossible for flower-beds to flourish in the neighbourhood of large trees. Whoever has tried the experiment has often found his borders full of the fibrous roots of the trees, while his choice plants lived only a sickly, miserable life. In such a case, the question must generally be, which of the two is most desirable, the flowers or the trees; and one or the other must be sacrificed. The question, too, arises whether shrubs of much size should be grown in beds devoted to flowers.

Trees are out of place, also, when they overshadow the roof of a house, or darken its windows, or shut out a fine prospect. It is the testimony of eminent physicians that no small part of the sickness of families is attributable to the shading of dwellings by overhanging trees, and thick, clustering vines. Our bodies need light, pure sunlight, and a great deal of it; and our spirits need it none the less; and he who shuts out this genial dispenser of health from his home makes a great mistake and does a great wrong.

Many a fine place is injured because the owner, having at first planted his grounds with a large number of trees for immediate effect, afterward neglects or refuses to thin them out. They soon crowd one another, they grow up lank and spindling, destitute of beauty, and, by their dense shade, kill out the grass and shrubs beneath them.

We know very well how hard it is to cut down a tree which one has planted, and whose growth has been watched for many years. This feeling is natural and to be respected, but it may be indulged to excess. The only question should be, is this or that tree in its place? Would I plant it there now, if I were to set it out anew? If not, cut it down; let it no longer cumber the ground. When such a resolution has once been formed, and the work fairly done, we come to respect our own pluck, and to view the result with great satisfaction.

It deserves to be said that a tree is misplaced when set near to the fence of a neighbour's garden or orchard; for, by so doing, I not only steal the richness of his land, and over-shadow his vegetables and his fruit trees, but, when my fruit trees come into bearing, it becomes a standing controversy between us as to the ownership of the fruit which hangs over the other side of the fence.

It is a common mistake to plant pines and spruce-firs near the margin of one's walks and carriage-roads. Few persons know or stop to inquire how large these trees will spread as they grow to maturity. They look pretty and docile as they stand in the nursery-rows, and so the little beauties are set out within arm's length of the walk, where they can easily be seen and petted. But in a few years, the young giants begin to show their strength and large proportions. They throw out their arms in lusty vigour, stretching from fifteen to twenty feet on either side, over walks, and grass-plots, and adjoining shrubbery, darkening windows and doorways, very much to the surprise and confusion of the planter. The result of the whole is that either the trees must be cut down, or their lower branches be hewn off, which latter operation is a virtual destruction of the trees. Any method of planting which does not forecast the future height and breadth of trees, whether planted singly or in groups, is mistaken.

The foregoing hints do not exhaust the subject, but we hope they will enable young planters to avoid some of the mistakes into which their seniors have fallen, and which it is now very hard to remedy.—*Hearth and Home.*