

injurious effect on the health of the inmates, by causing dampness and too great an exclusion of light and air.

Belts or strips of trees, forming the boundary lines of small grounds, are quite inappropriate, confining the view, and causing a place to appear much smaller than it would do by a more natural and picturesque distribution of plants and trees. These belts also create in the minds of the observer, the disagreeable feeling of confinement, and they ought never to be employed for the purpose of securing privacy, unless under peculiar circumstances, when there is something positively objectionable which it is desirable to hide.

Mounds and clumps should be only sparingly introduced; they require to be disposed with a sound judgment and cultivated taste, or they will appear but little better than disfigured spots on the landscape. Except in large domains, or situations where it is necessary to hide adjacent buildings or objects, *Alcoves* are not to be generally recommended. When planted in straight lines they become too monotonous to be highly pleasing;—gentle curves greatly increase their beauty, and give the observer an impression of more extensive grounds, and consequently of the higher station and wealth of the owner.

The strictly geometrical style of planting should always be avoided, except in large grounds, and even then its details require to be extremely simple. An elaborate and complicated arrangement of parts looks exceedingly artificial, and ill accords with the simple beauty and majesty of nature. Many places, more particularly small ones, convey to the mind of a discriminating observer a feeling near akin to the ludicrous, mainly arising from the violation of this simple natural law. The great thing to be observed in ornamental planting is to adapt the number, sorts and arrangement of trees to the size, situation, and leading purposes of the grounds; to avoid all unnecessary crowding together of ornaments, and to make art the *handmaid* rather than the *mistress* of nature. In no portion of the world are the true picturesque laws of landscape ornament better understood, or more successfully practised than in the British Islands;—from the simple flower garden and embowered cottage of the peasant, through various gradations, up to the stately mansions, parks, and pleasure grounds of titled landowners or merchant princes: nay, to complete this beautiful chain of associations, we may ascend to a yet higher link, and include the royal and time-hallowed residences of monarchy itself.

The subject of fences, whether viewed in reference to ornamental grounds or the ordinary divisions of the farm, is one of great interest and importance. Rail fences are the only kind at first adapted to a densely wooded country like Canada; and although they detract much from the beauty of the landscape, several generations must pass away before they will be generally superseded by living hedges. There are, however, a number of old settled parts of the country in which fencing timber is already getting scarce, and consequently dear; especially near large towns and cities, where live fences might be attempted both with economy and success—a change that would add much to the beauty and richness of the scenery. The *Buck thorn* has been sufficiently tried in some parts of the neighbouring States to warrant the conclusion that it is well suited for making hedges in our northern latitudes;—it being easily raised from seed, a fast grower, quite hardy, and when properly trained it produces a strong, uniform, and handsome hedge, quite adequate for all ordinary purposes of defence. There can be but little doubt, also, that the common thorns indigenous to Canada, would, under proper treatment, answer for hedges admirably well. The principal things to be attended to are, to place the young plants carefully in well prepared soil, cutting back moderately every year the perpendicular growth; keeping the sides well trimmed so as to encourage width and thickness of growth at the bottom, gradually narrowing off to the top. This form is not only the one most pleasing