

growth;—such as the Larch, the Balsam Fir, the Spruce, the Hemlock, and the Lombardy Poplar. The Gothic style, abounding in perpendicular lines, with pointed roofs, is much more effectively exhibited by trees of an opposite character—those that possess massive towering tops—such as the Oak, Elm, Maple, Beech, Bass Wood, &c. Besides, in ornamenting grounds, it is desirable to introduce as much variety as possible; yet the extent of the grounds, the character of the soil, situation, and climate, and also of the size and style of the house and buildings, these constitute the principal elements in determining the numbers, kinds and arrangement of the trees for ornamental planting. In a lawn of very limited area trees of the smaller kinds are more in keeping, and afford greater variety of scenery, than a less number of a larger growth. In fact, in such a situation a dozen large forest trees planted sufficiently wide apart to enable them to attain to their full natural size and beauty, would occupy nearly the whole available space. In laying out a place, then, it becomes a matter of primary importance, one indeed frequently neglected in practice, viz: To maintain throughout in the various details, those just and harmonious proportions, which will give to the whole the pleasing and necessary attribute of unity.

The limits usually assigned to a single paper are such as to forbid the introduction of many particulars. I will, however, just refer to a few by way of suggestion that may probably be of some small use to such as contemplate the laying out of new grounds, or the improvement of old ones.

Perhaps the commonest mistake committed by amateurs, and occasionally even by professional landscape gardeners, is *attempting too much*. All true natural beauty is characterised by simplicity. Persons unaccustomed to generalize, who are incapable of taking in a number of objects at a glance, and of determining the character and effect of their combination, must be quite unequal to the task of setting out a lawn or shrubbery in a tasteful and pleasing manner. The whole of the principal outlines should be finally settled before any operations are commenced; for, to arrange and plant grounds piece-meal not only involves much unnecessary trouble and expense, but will be sure to end, more or less, in disappointment. A common source of error which should be most carefully guarded against, arises from the somewhat natural desire of introducing to one's grounds whatever novelty may be observed in others that seems pleasing to the eye, without due regard to its fitness for the locality, or its relation to what has previously been done.

A place may be irretrievably injured by being too much broken up in its *general arrangement*; and owners of small grounds are peculiarly liable to this mistake. In such situations attempting to introduce the features of extensive grounds, by adopting all their detached portions in miniature, and planting too largely, borders so nearly on the ludicrous that it will be sure to excite ridicule by violating the relations of harmony, and the most obvious dictates of correct taste. In all places—more particularly in moist climates and under clouded skies, characteristics, by the bye, not generally pertaining to Canada—sufficient open space should always be left in grass, to show the extent and figure of the grounds to advantage, as well as to admit the necessary amount of light and circulation of air, to promote the growth and healthy condition of trees and flowers.

It is objectionable in every way to plant thickly immediately around or close to a house, unless it be to hide some offensive deformity. In a climate like ours some amount of shade to a dwelling house is a means of comfort during the heats of summer, while trees afford a desirable shelter against the strong and piercing winds of winter. *Thick* planting, however, not only obscures the house and excludes all prospects of the surrounding scenery from its windows—objects in themselves of great interest and importance to secure, but it sometimes has an