
OPINIONS OF MARY

highly recommended seeds and is looking forward triumphantly to being able to demonstrate to me—having faithfully followed the books on gardening—what an amateur gardener can produce if he or she sets to work properly.

She may prove that I don't know a thing about it, but till she does I will go on believing that I do, and—but haven't we all observed the experience of the novice who suddenly bethinks him that he will make a garden behind his house? He invests in a spade, hoe and rake, and hies to his yard, maps out the portion he intends to cultivate, and begins removing the sod. This he generally finds more laborious than he anticipated, and, unless he is unusually persevering, he quickly concludes that he has not time to spare from business just then, and engages a man to do that portion of the work. And the man being there, he lets him dig it also.

It may be that he enriches it a trifle, but the necessity for this very probably escapes his mind, and he contents himself with picking out the bits of brick, stones and other extraneous matter that appear even to him to have no nourishing properties. Then he rakes it neatly and pats it down smooth.

If it is to be a vegetable garden, from the catalogue he chooses those seeds illustrated by the most enticing pictures. Peas, whose smiling pods never could have met over the rounded loveliness of the plump and delicious contents