

"The idea of superiority is not extinct. I have heard complaints from builders that we gardeners trespass upon their work, and disfigure it with our ampelopsis, wistaria, jasmine, roses, and ivy; but no one outside their fraternity seconds the proposition. Has not the Great Architect of the Universe clothed His mountains and rocks with moss, and lichen, and flowers? And yet within a few years an architect has informed us that a garden should be laid out in an equal number of rectangular parts; that everything therein should be simple, formal, and *logical*! and that he should have no more hesitation in applying the scissors to his trees and shrubs with a view to their transformation into pyramids and peacocks, cocked hats and ramping lions, than he should experience in mowing his grass. Should this gentleman secure the sympathy of the public with his rectifications of Nature, it will only remain for the Government to invite contracts for the fulfilment of the Quaker's suggestion that the world should be painted a good, cheap, universal drab."

"There must be in every garden--- The grace of *Congruity*. There must be unity without uniformity, a pleasing combination not only of separate parts of the garden, but of the garden itself with the scene around. Every instrument in the great orchestra must be in tune."

"I have watched with great interest attempts to improve Nature. I remember an under-gardener, who carved flowers with his pocket knife out of turnips, chiefly the ranunculus, the camellia, and the tulip, and colored them with stripes and spots of the most gorgeous hues; and I recall a day when, passing by the potting shed, in which he was exhibiting his splendid achievements to a friend, I heard him say,

'They whacks natur', don't they, Dobbs?' And Dobbs replied, 'They whacks her ea-sy.'

"Congruity means the adaptation of Art to Nature, the conformity of a garden with its environs, the study of the soil."

"'Et quid quaque ferat regio et quaque recuset.' It means not only the selection but the setting of the jewels, not only the painting of the picture, but the placing in the frame."

"This then should be the primary endeavor to the true gardener, to collect all the most beautiful specimens which he can obtain of trees, and shrubs, and flowers, and to arrange them with all the knowledge which he possesses of their habit, colour, and form, in accordance with the simplicity, the graceful outlines, the charming combinations of the natural world beyond,

'When order in variety we see,
And where, though all things differ, all agree.'

Working under these rules, copying this model, obeying Pope's edict,

'First follow Nature, and your judgments frame,

By her just standard, which is still the same,'

he will make but few mistakes, and these will suggest their own rectification, whereas all the endeavors of wealth and self-conceit to follow their own imaginations, without regard to these immutable laws, and to obtain the admiration of their neighbors by the mere costliness of their novelties, or the heterogeneous locations of their plants, inevitably fail. Again and again I have seen such results of lavish expenditure and stolid arrogance as have almost induced ophthalmia and softening of the brain, with an intense longing for the wings of a dove; whereas the same eyes have gazed with a delight, which could not tire, in many a garden where the means were scanty, but the love was large."