

✧ The Garden and Lawn. ✧

THE LEADING IDEA IN PLANTING.



N any scene it is plainly a mistake to introduce plants which, however beautiful in themselves, contradict the leading idea. Instead of this, we should carry out the central thought in every possible way. If we have a natural ledge of rocks we can encourage native ferns to grow in its crevices, wild vines to trail over its face, and native shrubs and grasses to grow at its base, and thus emphasize its natural aspect and make an artistic picture at the same time. Where the surroundings of the ledge are rough, it may be the best practice to clear away only the inhospitable thickets of brambles and allow Nature herself to weave a tracery of vines upon the rocks, and encourage wild flowers to blossom among them. In planting our native trees in a natural landscape we should use them in such positions as they usually affect, not only because a willow will be healthy near the water while a chestnut will thrive on a gravelly hill, but because we are accustomed to see these trees in such places. Stretches of green turf always enhance the effect of trees, but where our object is to preserve as far as possible the wild beauty of an individual spot and bring out the idea of remoteness, the borders should be broken by capes and bays of foliage, and outstanding single

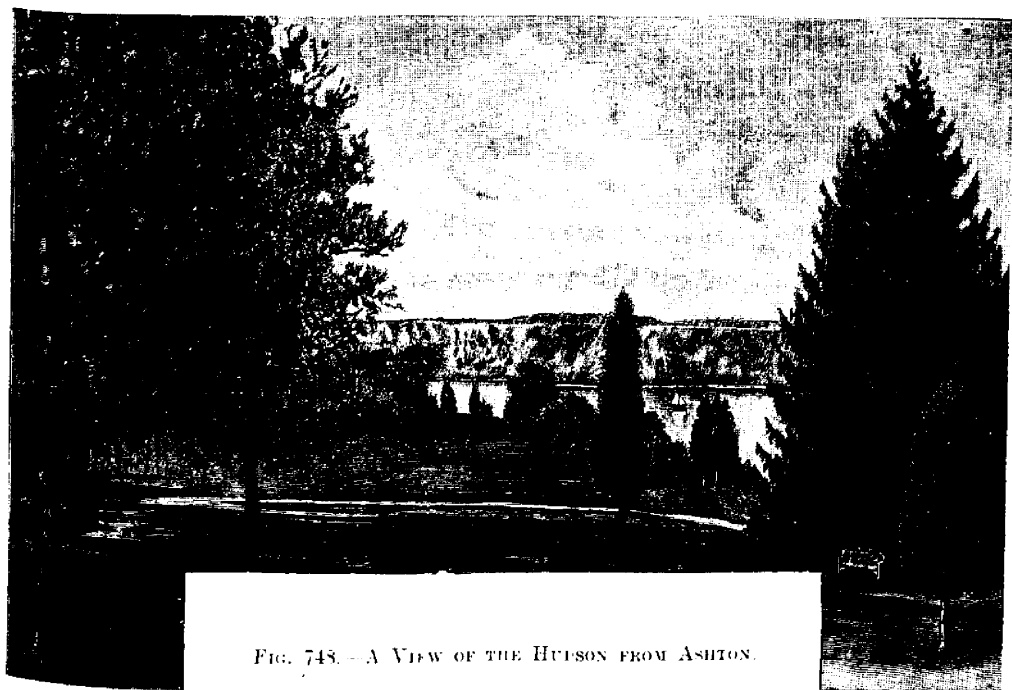


FIG. 748. —A VIEW OF THE HUDSON FROM ASHTON.