



View in the Garden of Mr. J. H. Bennett, Barrie, Ont.

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charming effects that have been produced by the expenditure of only a few dollars. The pictures are two views of the house and grounds of "Castlewraye," the residence of Mr. F. R. Yokome, editor of the *Examiner*, and represent the work and time of fewer than a dozen years and the expenditure of only a little money. When the place came into his possession, its unkempt, neglected and weed-grown condition made its purchase price a reasonable one; but its possibilities made it desirable. The grounds, half an acre in extent, have the house (with about 75 feet of well shaded and ventilated verandah on the south and east) placed in the middle, so that the sun strikes every window on all sides at some time of the day, subdued in part by the splendid and well-grown trees, chiefly elms, that line the 120 feet of street frontage—by the way the only straight lines about the place—or stand at the margin of the grounds on all the other sides. The grounds are nearly all laid down to lawn, which is not a dead level, but slopes irregularly from east to west, and is dotted with shrubs of varying kinds and sizes. Along part of the front within the enclosing fence—an unfenced lawn is a "common"—and at both ends of the grounds, is planted practically a hedge of unclipped *lonicera* and *philadelphus*, *grandiflora*, and *coronaria*—incorrectly called *syringa*—both easily grown and common, but very effective shrubs; and two or three beautifully-shaped specimens stand here and there. Other common but effectively grouped shrubs are *althea*, *wigelia*, *spiraea*, *berberry*, two or three varieties of *hydrangea*, and three or four trees of our most beautiful con-

fer, red cedar. Other features on the west part of the lawn are perennial borders, and at the rear is a stationary trellis for sweet peas, with a careless hedge of *lonicera*, white lilac, and *philadelphus* as a background. With the comparative abundance of shrubs and trees, they are as disposed and treated—the trees trimmed high—that there is a good thick turf, whose growing is almost the only artificial and formal element in these grounds. Considering the trifling cost, these grounds, as may be judged by the pictures, give a decidedly charming ensemble, the chief charm of which is its natural, impressionist beauty and homelike, peaceful and reposeful effect, expressed by an appreciative neighbor in the words: "It's an awful homey-looking place"; and its adornment didn't cost the price of a set of awnings for an ordinary house.

The Modern Peony

J. H. Bennett, Barrie, Ont.

There is probably no other plant with such varied usefulness as the peony. Its use in beds or clumps and for effective massing in landscape work is unequalled. There is no handsomer border than one of peonies and here it shows to best advantage in clumps of two or three plants. Other plants may be used if continuity of bloom is desired. An effective plan is to plant narcissus and lily bulbs between the peonies. The narcissus gives earlier bloom than the peonies before the latter have finished blooming, and their blossoms last for some weeks after the peonies are done.

An attractive use for the peony is as a low ornamental hedging for a drive, walk, or lawn, where defence is not re-

quired. The dark, glossy, green foliage, untouched by insects or disfigured by disease, is exceedingly attractive through the spring and hot summer months.

A word of caution may here be given with reference to the blooms of the peony. After being transplanted peonies will not produce typical blooms the first season, indeed not until they become thoroughly established. Many fine double varieties will throw single or semi-double flowers in the first and second years. It takes fully three years from the time the root is planted to produce normal flowers. Blooms therefore should not be finally judged the first or second season, and making comparisons in a large collection before the third season is fraught with considerable risk and often leads to disappointment.

LIST OF VARIETIES.

I must of necessity refrain from any attempt to give a list of the best kinds of peony, as this is to a great extent a matter of opinion, taste, and fancy. I will, however, try to give a list classified as early, mid-season, and late, with a view to helping those amateurs who desire to plant such varieties as will prolong the blooming season:

Early white, *Festiva Maxima*; early pale pink, *Eugenie Verdier*; early deep pink, *Edulis Supera*; early red, *Augustin D'Hour*.

Mid-season white, *Madame Crousse*; mid-season pale pink, *Albert Crousse*; mid-season deep pink, *Princess Beatrice*; mid-season red, *Felix Crousse*.

Late white, *Mireille*; late pale pink, *Grandeflora Rosea*; late deep pink, *Madame Forel*; late red, *Eugene Bigot*.

While refraining from giving a list of what may be considered good or the best peonies, there are no poor ones, yet anyone who grows *Festiva Maxima*, *Edulis Superba*, *Golden Harvest*, *Modele de Perfection*, *Felix Crousse*, and *Eugenie Verdier* will not be disappointed, either in size, color, beauty, or fragrance of the blooms.

While the first cost of many varieties may seem high, the peony is really the most economical plant one can buy, from the fact that it represents a permanent investment and one which pays annual dividends of increase of at least one hundred per cent.

Almost every family of even the most moderate means spends annually quite a good sum on geraniums, and other bedding plants and at the end of the year has nothing left to show for it. Plant the peony and it will last as long as you do, and longer.

Anyone who undertakes the culture of this most beautiful plant will be amply repaid by the fragrance, beauty, and abundance of bloom, with which his garden will be filled.