

a man, full-grown, broad-shouldered, and six feet in height, without symptoms of softening of the brain, should want with a perpetual bouquet. The man in question, considering it purely his own business, does not enlighten them by saying that he cares so much about having flowers on his office table that he carries them gladly, and therefore is called eccentric. I have always noticed that when people consider others eccentric, it is because they are revelling in some sort of enjoyment that their critics can neither compass nor share, and there are no people so devoid of nature sentiment as the rank and file of commercial American males.

June 20. Roses, and more roses! The arbor vines are rich with color. I am almost glad that roses do not last all summer; they are so strenuous, they demand the best of everything, food, lodging, care, and I should be worn out, also, with the prolonged luxury of the revel.

The sweet peas are beginning to fringe the trellis top, and bow and blush to the nasturtiums opposite, all swaying to and fro in a line on either side of the path, as if taking sides in the country-dance that follows the minuet of the courtly roses, and marks the entry of the glowing, less aristocratic summer flowers of July and August.

I've been watching a pair of song-sparrows for two weeks past, and have arrived at the conclusion that there are birds of defective judgment, as well as people. This couple evidently were either young and undecided, or for some other reason late in mating, and they did not build their nest between the roots of a shrub or in a sturdy bush as well-conducted song sparrows should do, but balanced it almost at the end of a branch of a rose bush that would surely bend over as the roses opened and grew heavy. To-day the inevitable happened. A shower bent the bush, and the eggs rolled out and were broken. I reproach myself, for I should have tried to prop up the nest, but I thought that they knew their business. However, it is only June, and it may teach them to plan better next time.

June 30. The hardy border roses are practically over, a great storm last night, having scattered the ripened bloom upon the ground in a foam of red, white and rose-colored petals. The arbor has not yet reached perfection, and the summer roses in the four corner beds of the sun garden are sending up strong shoots set with thick buds.

We have made our list of satisfactory hardy, fragrant roses that we have tested up to date. I will write it in my Garden Boke, so that I may not forget when people ask me about them. Some of the bushes are now too old and woody to yield large flowers, but we shall simply renew them in kind, and avoid experiments as far as possible. A hundred of such bushes are all that a woman gardener, even with a wide ambition, can manage either to plant, suitably care for, or to gather and give away the flower crop, while fifty will yield almost equal joy. Of white, we have Madame Plantier, Bath Moss, Coquettes des Blanches, and Coquettes des Alpes; pink—Centifolia, the hundred-leaved Provence Rose, Magna Charta, Anne de Diesbach, Paul Neyron (the child of Anne de Diesbach and Victor Verdier), and

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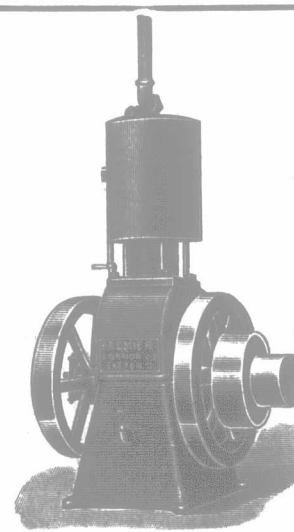
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