

prove and enhance them by all the arts which his artistic tastes, love of scenery and command of money could bring to that end.

One side of his pretty lake he had suffered to remain fringed to the water's edge with the glorious old maples, elms and pines of the primeval forest—a sheltering and a beautiful back-ground—while on the gently rising and undulating shore of the other bank lay the cultivated grounds; stretching back over a wide extent; interspersed with groves and copses, orchards and ornamental plantations, wherever such would most heighten the effect. The unsightly spots, common to every landscape, and commonly left in their deformity to pain the eye, had been carefully hidden by fringes of trees; and the barns and out-houses (generally unpleasing objects) in the same manner were masked from sight. The fields bordering the shores of the lake were cultivated to the water's edge, with no ragged and unsightly range of bushes obstructing the view; but the smooth grassy slopes met the water, with here and there a tree, or an effective copse to adorn and guard them from sameness.

The property, which under the ruthless and wholesale destruction of the forest (sweeping away every tree with hand that seems to hate—that too often marks the progress of the Canadian settler), would have been but a bare clearing, resembled a handsome and well-laid out park.

On a gentle eminence near the head of the lake, sheltered by the picturesquely-wooded heights adjacent—with its lawns, gardens and ornamental grounds running down to the water—stood the house, a large, handsome and comfortable structure, which looked pretty and homelike surrounded with its trellised and vine-covered verandah; with its handsome conservatory, well-kept walks and bright gardens.

Lake Mordaunt, as its owner had named his property, had been so extensive a purchase that it still remained, as it were, enveloped in its own ancient forests, so that the nearest neigh