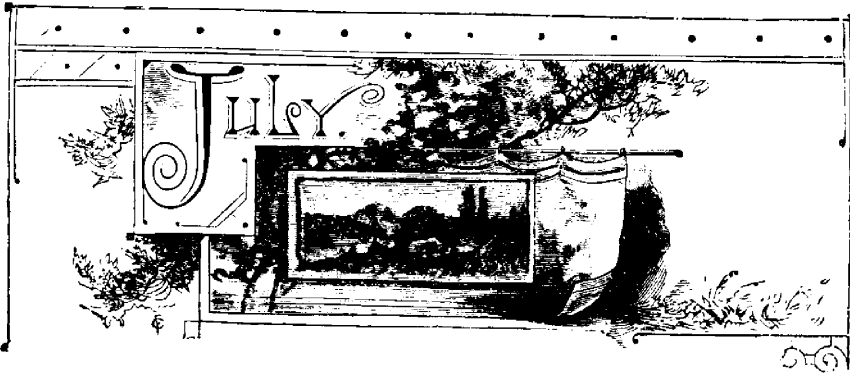


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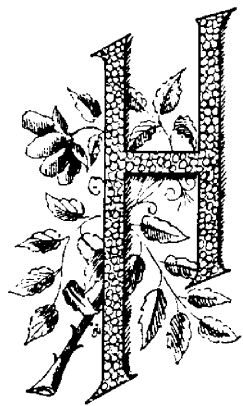
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THE BARBERRY.



EDGES, such as form the pretty boundary of country lanes in England, are few enough in Canada. Our Canadian farmers have as yet been so busy with the necessities that the ornamental has been neglected. But the time is at hand for an improvement in this regard; when our country roads will no longer be margined by the ugly snake fence, or even by stiff boards or pickets, but by a graceful border of living green.

Though perhaps not forming so effective a hedge as the thorn for turning cattle, the barberry succeeds better in Canada, and will grow on stony or sandy land where many shrubs would fail. It is quite ornamental too with its racemes of flowers in spring, and scarlet berries in autumn which hang the winter through, reminding us of Longfellow's couplet in *Hiawatha*,

“Where the tangled barberry bushes
Hang their tufts of crimson berries.”

There are a good many varieties of this shrub, about thirty being described by Nicolson in his *Dictionary of Gardening*. The *Common Barberry*, (*Berberis vulgaris*) which is a native of Britain, is a free grower and forms an excellent hedge. There are a good many variations in coloring of fruit and foliage which when constant are indicated by distinct names. The one which forms the frontispiece of this number is called *B. vulgaris purpurea* because of the purple color of the foliage, which makes it a highly ornamental shrub. On poor sandy