

# SUBURBAN & COUNTRY LIFE SUPPLEMENT

## Homes and Gardens of Canada

8—"The Cottage," Montmorency, the Home of Herbert Molesworth Price

THE series of articles on homes and gardens which form the feature of the Country Life Supplement, as will have been seen, have a very interesting diversity of character, some woven round with domestic simplicity, others steeped in romance, belonging to the mansion itself or the land in which it is placed. But none of the subjects treated has appealed with stronger force to the imagination, to the lover of grandeur in nature, of glorious views and depth of colour from pine and silvery birch than the famous "Cottage" of Montmorency Falls.

The charming home of Mr. Price, whose work for the welfare of the Province of Quebec is writ large in her history, is known to many, and the illustrations convey some impression of its beauty and surroundings. It is a home set amidst the wild grandeur of Canadian scenery, a peaceful retreat saturated with the environment of sublime scenery, romantic history and personal magnetism. It was built in the early years of the last century, on the brink of the Falls on the Quebec side of the river, but in the course of generations the original house has undergone a great change, additions and alterations bringing it to a perfection marked with strong individuality and surrounded with gardens of flowers. Whether at the close of a summer day or in the depths of winter "The Cottage" has a strange fascination, and the Falls, the wonder of Quebec, scintillate with exquisite colouring, the sparkling river descending in one vast flood to a depth of 220 feet, and gliding onwards to meet the mighty St. Lawrence, a waterfall of silvery charm, a transparent foil to the soft, grey rocks and flinging its misty beauty over darkling pine and leafy shrub. If Montmorency were not steeped in history the Falls would impart to it an undying majesty. Rambling through the famous gardens with the sound of mighty waters carried on the summer wind, thoughts of Wolfe, of Montcalm, of

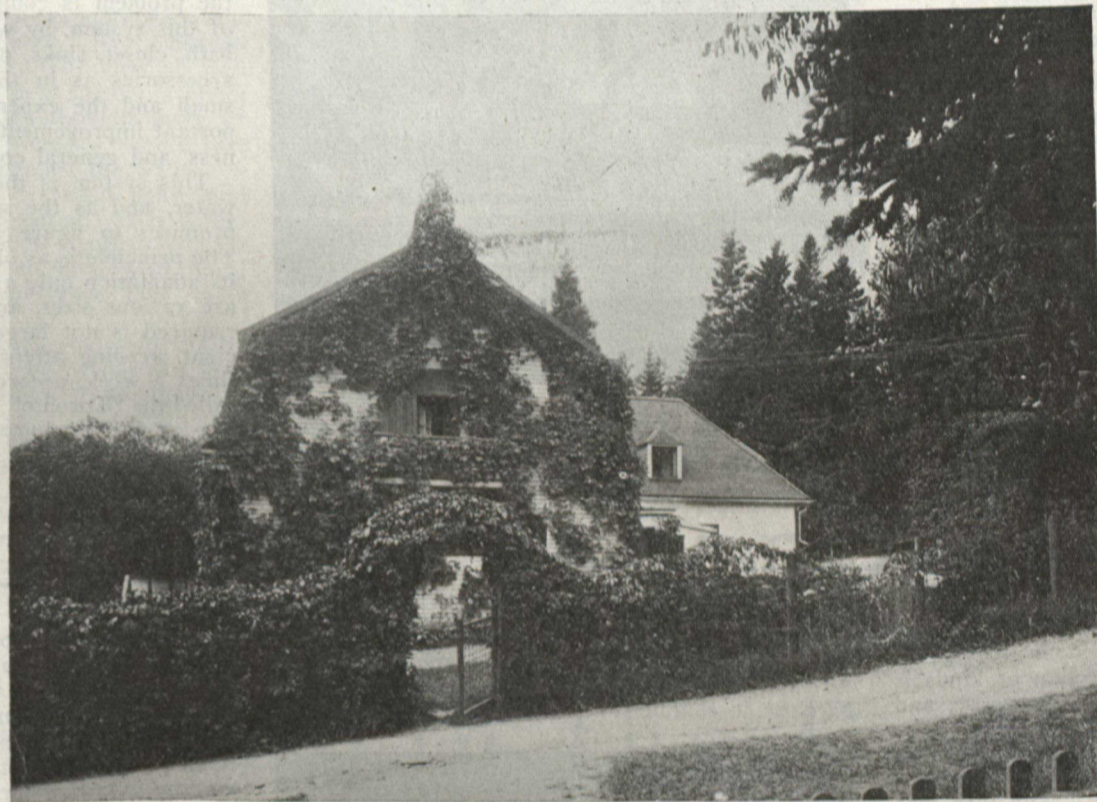
By E. T. COOK

picturesque Quebec, the city on a hill, are lost awhile in the features that surround "The Cottage." The pavilion, or "look-out," over the Falls was built by General Haldimand, in 1782, at the suggestion of Madame Riedesel, wife of General Riedesel, who commanded the Hessian troops in the American Revolutionary War, the regiments marching by way

of the name, and in June days the big scent-laden flowers recall the words of Bacon, "I doe hold it, in the Royall Ordering of Gardens, there ought to be gardens, there ought to be gardens for all the moneths of the yeare, in which severally Things of Beautie may then be in season." And June should be smothered over with the flower that has established itself throughout the Dominion. A happy and instructive day was once spent in the

great peony farm of Kelway, in Somerset, the hybridist who has given to the world some of its most exquisite forms, and a note in one of his treatises may be of interest. In it is mentioned that peonies are, the most beautiful of all the showier hardy perennial plants; they should be in every garden, large or small; in beds, borders, shrubberies, drives, grass walk, and woodland. Plant them near at hand for close enjoyment of their beauty as well as in masses for distant colour effect, in lines straight or curving on the margin of shrubberies and in groups between shrubs, in large and small beds in the midst of turf; in borders at the foot of walls, and in mixed borders at constant intervals, and the less expensive kinds used freely in copses, woods, and the rougher parts of the garden. All these positions they adorn. There is no other plant that will make a more splendid display or give greater satisfaction in return for the small trouble involved in its cultivation. It

is worthy of note that while Peonies vie with the Rhododendron in the brilliancy of their flowers, they have this advantage over the shrub—no loam or peat is actually necessary for their welfare. Whether the old kinds or the new are considered, peonies will thrive in practically any position, and there is hardly one in which they will not flourish to perfection; they are amenable to the simplest treatment in any soil and are as hardy as a rock by the wayside; they need little protection, and the flowers, borne in profusion in an almost endless



"The Cottage," a Charming Country Home at Montmorency, Near Quebec.

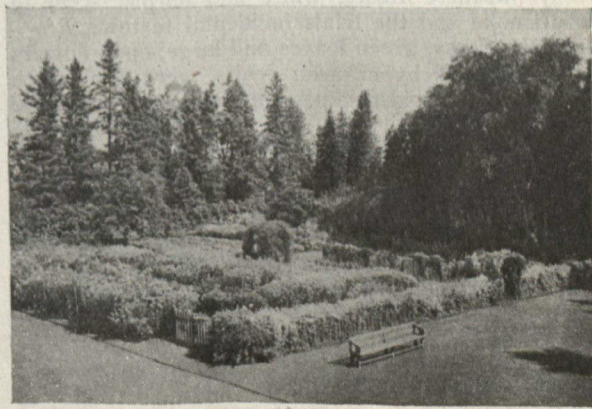
of Quebec. Again, the pillars of the old suspension bridge, sixty feet distant from the residence, are of more than fleeting interest. This bridge fell in the month of April, 1856, and swept three unfortunate individuals, who were crossing it, to their death, and the French entrenchments surrounded the estate on the Montmorency River side. But the whole of the vicinity of "The Cottage" is on historic ground. The opposite side of the river was occupied by the army of General Wolfe, and this reminds the writer of a poem written on Montmorency by the late Mr. Kirby and dedicated to Mr. Price:

"For history, poetry, and wild romance,  
The old, the new, nature's exuberance  
Peace, war and love—love still the best of all  
Their story here on every side I learn,  
And Wolfe and Montcalm's rival camps discern  
In the long thunder of the roaring fall."

The breeze is heavy with the scent of flowers in the gardens of this beautiful Canadian home, and honeysuckle runs riot with many another vine, clouds of peony, Phlox Drummondii, pansies, and fragrant Mignonette giving radiant colour to the small and field gardens with a wealth of perennials to accompany them; but the four named are highest in favour. It is interesting to watch the development of certain flowers in almost national esteem. The peony sheds its splendour in all gardens worthy



Mr. Price's Collection of Famous Cannon.



The Field Gardens at "The Cottage."