



**THE ORIGIN OF SCANDAL.**

Said Mrs. A.  
 To Mrs. J.  
 In quite a confidential way,  
 "It seems to me  
 That Mrs. B.  
 Takes too much--something in her tea."  
 And Mrs. J.  
 To Mrs. K.  
 That very night was heard to say,  
 She grieved to touch  
 Upon it much,  
 But "Mrs. B. took--such and such!"  
 Then Mrs. C.  
 Went straight away  
 And told a friend the self-same day,  
 "I was sad to think"  
 Here came a wink--  
 "That Mrs. B. was fond of drink."  
 The friend's disgust  
 Was such she must  
 Inform a lady "which she nussed,"  
 "That Mrs. B.  
 At half-past three  
 Was that far gone she couldn't see."  
 This lady we  
 Have mentioned, she  
 Gave needle-work to Mrs. B.  
 And at such news  
 Could scarcely choose  
 But future needle-work refuse  
 Then Mrs. B.,  
 As you'll agree  
 Quite properly--she said, said she,  
 That she would track  
 The scandal back  
 To those who made her look so black.  
 Through Mrs. K.  
 And Mrs. J.  
 She got at last to Mrs. A.  
 And asked her why,  
 With cruel lie,  
 She painted her so deep a dye.  
 Said Mrs. A.,  
 In some dismay,  
 "I no such thing could ever say;  
 I said that you  
 Much stouter grew  
 On too much sugar--which you do."  
 —*The Argonaut.*

**PIGMY TREES AND MINIATURE LANDSCAPES.**

In some ways Chinese and Japanese gardeners are the most successful of any in the world. They can control and direct the growth of plants to a degree that seems really marvellous until the principle upon which it is done is known, when, as in many other matters, it becomes quite simple.

The Chinese have such a strong liking for the grotesque and unnatural, that the handiwork of their gardeners is not as pleasing as that of the Japanese gardeners. The Chinese understand the dwarfing of trees; but their best work is in so directing the growth of a tree or plant that it will resemble some hideous animal which is only fit to exist in nightmare.

The Japanese, on the contrary, are remarkable for their love of what is beautiful and graceful, and, consequently, ugly forms find no favor with them. Every Japanese has a garden if it be possible; but, as space is valuable in Japan, only the very rich can have large grounds, and the family in moderate circumstances must be content with a garden often smaller in area than the floor of one of our hall bedrooms in a narrow, city house.

Nevertheless, that small garden must contain as many objects as a large garden, and, of course, the only way of accomplishing the desired result is to have everything in miniature. It is no uncommon thing to see a whole landscape contained in a space no greater than the top of your dining-table. There will be a mountain, a stream, a lake, rocky grottoes, winding paths, bridges, lawns, fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers; all so artistically laid out as to resemble nature itself. In the lake will swim wonderful, filmy-finned gold and silver fish, and not infrequently the tall form of a crane will be

A bore, meeting Douglass Jerrold, said: "Well what's going on to-day?" "I am," exclaimed Jerrold, darting past the inquirer.