

# A Modest Home and its Lovely Surroundings

"STONE WALLS," sings seventeenth century Lovelace, "do not a prison make;" nor do four stone or brick or wood walls make a home. Apart from the inner conditions constituting a home, the surroundings are an important element in making a house a home. The grandest building, without apt environment, is like a

drawing room. Nature shows infinite variety with exquisite beauty of effect in her placing of plants, flowers or trees. Therefore, if we would succeed in making an effective floral or arboreal setting for a residence, on the natural plan, we must study to follow nature's way.

One of the two or three main essentials in a garden or grounds of this kind

grounds like guardian sentinels and not too near it—to shut out the vital sunlight—and trimmed high so that sunlight and air have free play consistent with shade and shelter at some time of the day, and with the growth of grass and other things.

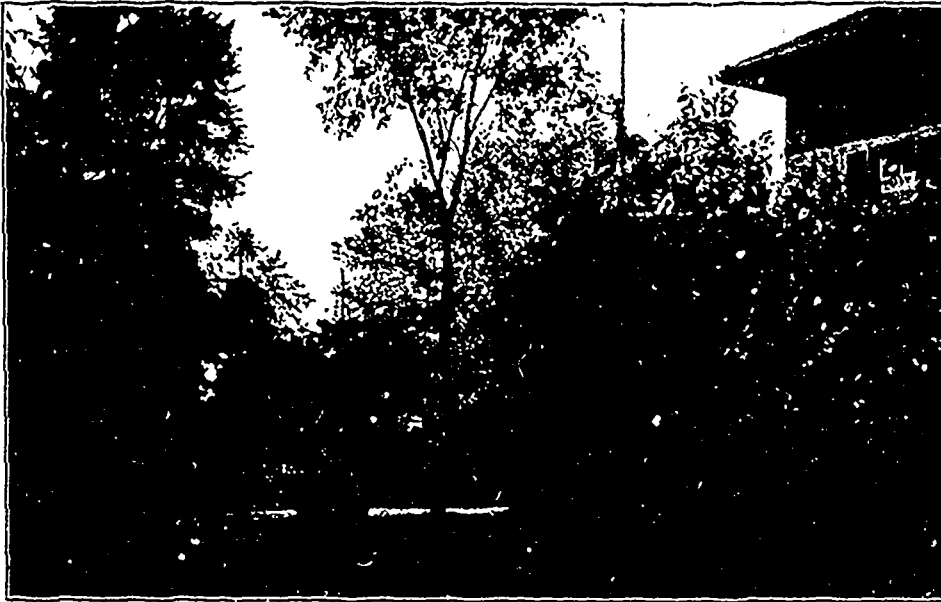
Another essential condition of nature's garden-making plan is a lawn of good turf, not necessarily mathematically level, like a bowling green, but smooth and, at all times, neatly groomed—as in nature, a companion idea to rus in urbe; the fairest beauty of face would be spoiled if the face were not kept clean.

In the natural scheme of doing things a lawn is not a mere uniform stretch of sward, but a place for planting trees and shrubs and flowers, corresponding to the trees or clump of trees and shrubs of varied sizes and groupings that make the diversity and beauty of a landscape, which without them would be a "flat, stale and unprofitable" stretch of irksome verdure.

The beauty and homely effect of the placing singly or in groups of shrubs and flower plots, depend upon fidelity to nature's way of doing these things. Done in this way, the arrangement of turf, trees, shrubs, and flowers—if studied absence of system and symmetry can be called arrangement—will have a strikingly beautiful and artistically natural result.

Given the house and suitable ground, and a few fortunately planted old trees, surprising results can be got at trifling cost in money—only a little, or rather, a great deal, of loving care and exercise of common sense, or what is rarer, cultured sense of the beautiful.

The pictures accompanying illustrate, to a necessarily limited extent, the



Front Lawn, Castlewraye, Residence of Mr. F. R. Yokome, Peterboro, Ont.

diamond without its setting, which, fittingly joined, Benvenuto Cellini, regarded as converting a mere precious stone into a jewel, giving it its full beauty value. Surrounding a house with trees, and planted and tended grounds, as far as the external element goes, makes it a home in a real, and, in proportion to the skill and taste employed, beautiful sense.

The home-making environment of a house may vary, according to conditions and facilities from a tiny lawn, the size of a dining table, to a sweeping expanse of grounds, each effective or otherwise, according to treatment.

For a small or medium sized area the formal or Italian system of gardening—using the word in its widest meaning—is the better adaptable. The more picturesque and homely way of natural gardening is more, if not exigently adaptable to larger grounds. The natural way is to follow, and at the same time direct and, improve upon nature's way, by adapting it to conditions and desired results. Nature, in planting her trees and shrubs, never places them symmetrically; she never shows the bad taste of "matching" a shrub or flower with one of the same kind. If the good Lord were planting rose bushes, He wouldn't place one on each side of a house entrance, as stiff and formal as two grenadiers on guard at the door of a royal

is trees, and space permitting, the bigger and the most fittingly placed the better. Trees are the first condition of a house setting. They give dignity and a sense of repose, with their "calm shade that brings a kindred calm." Mrs. Hemans' "stately homes of England" owe their charm to "the tall, ancestral trees" that make it a "pleasant land." Trees should surround the house and



East Side View, Castlewraye. Note the Sylvan Effect