The shape of the garden may be adapted to existing circumstances, but if otherwise applicable, a quadrangular, or an oblong square can be cropped and cultivated to more advantage than irregular forms, which should only be adopted in case of necessity, either from the land or other difficulties which cannot be controlled.

The fencing is better to be close, to the North side, and partly so on the East and West ends; a shelter of trees outside the garden fence on the North side, North-East, and North-West corners, should be raised as soon as possible. The different kinds of evergreen trees (such as the balsam fir, the Norway spruce, the hemlock spruce, and the different varieties of cedar) will best answer the purpose at least those trees next the fence should be of this kind. They give most shelter at the time when it is most wanted. and their roots and branches are not so troublesome in undermining or overhanging the borders, as deciduous trees, or those trees which throw their leaves every season.

The first step towards the cultivation of the space which may thus have been set apart and fenced for a kitchen garden, is, to drain it thoroughly; some situations and soils there are which may not require the operation, but those are rare exceptions; and as a generale rule, mostly all soils will be benefited by draining. The extent to which this may be necessary. must be determined by the nature of the soil to be operated upon; however, there is no fear of overdoing, as the more drains there are put in, the nearer perfection will the garden be; and on no account should draining be neglected when the garden is laying out, as if once it is planted and furnished, draining cannot be done so well; nor can it be done at all, without undoing and destroying much that may have been already accomplished.

Having selected a point of outlet for the drainage water of some of the lowest corners, and from whence a sufficient fall or run can be got to carry it off; a main drain should then be led along the lowest side, to receive water from the lateral or branch drains, which should be so laid out as to catch or intercept the natural sug or trituration of the water in the land, that is always going on from the higher to the lower levels. The drains should be extended through the border of the shelter trees on the outside of the fence, which being on the North side of the garden will consequently be the highest, and the point from whence the water proceeds.

In most cases the drains will answer every every purpose intended, if dug about three feet in depth; finishing the bottom to a graded slope or run, in the direction to which the land falls. The best materials for permanency are stone, or draining tiles; but no one should be deterred from proceeding because he cannot obtain any one material, as although the materials above mentioned are the most durable, yet good substitutes may be found in either fence rails or brush wood, any of which if well put in and carefully covered with a tough green turf (as all drainage for trituration should be) will drain the land effectually for a period of from forty to fifty years.

The whole garden and tree border outside, should then be subtrenched, to a depth of not less than two feet; preserving fifteen inches in depth of the original surface soil upon the finished surface; the subsoil below this fifteen inches should be dug and loosened to the desired depth, but left in the bottom of the trench (hence the term subtrenching, and fifteen inches of the soil from the surface of the next trench thrown on the top of the loosened subsoil, and so on until the whole is finished.

The benefits of this subtrenching are manifold; it allows the superabundant water to percolate easily and quickly through the soil to the drains, leaving a deeply loosened porous body of soil fully saturated with moisture, but never to stagnate or get sour. It allows a perfectly free circulation of air heat, and other atmospheric influences, to pass into and through the soil, more moisture is retained and held in solution during dry weather; the evaporated moisture from the bottom (which in shallow soils is brought to the surface and absorbed into the atmosphere) being absorbed and retained by the depth of soil, in its passage upward, a small surplus only passing off by slow degrees into the atmosphere.

The roots of all plants and vegetables penetrate this loose soil to such a depth, as that even during long continuances of dry weather, they are seldom or never what we would call burnt or scorched; and having a greater range of pasture, they are much increased in size and value. But this is not all, their properties are also quite different; as from being produced upon a soil perfectly drained and ventilated (so to speak) and which allows all the organic elements free scope to play a part in their growth and maturity, we may be well assured that they are superior to the productions of an undrained, untrenched, sour soil, as a man who feeds upon good, wholesome, well prepared food, and lodges in a well drained, well ventilated house, taking sufficient exercise, is superior to a man who lives upon inert matter, and lodges in an ill drained, ill ventilated house, taking little or no exercise. (The cultivation of the surface represents exercise.)

When the trenching is finished and the surface brought to a graded level, the walks should next be marked out. Cross walks may be put to to divide into convenient sized quarters, but one main walk all round the garden, at about from nine to twelve feet from the fence inside is essentially necessary, because the borders next the fence being on some sides the warmest, and on others the shadiest, should be occupied with all kinds of small early and late crops, to cultivate and to gather which, it is necessary to have ready access at all times from a main walk.

Gooseberies, currants, and raspberries, with probably a dwarf pear in each corner (to break the sameness which would otherwise prevail) should occupy a border of about five feet wide, round each quarter, the bushes to be set in one line, about six feet apart, along the centre of this border; the black currant and gooseberry in the shadiest places. Raspberries should have a situation open to the sun most part of the day, as otherwise the wood will be winter killed. They may be planted three feet apart in line. Strawberries will do best in one of the open quarters, they should be renewed by re-planting every second or third year, and always on a fresh quarter. Rhubarb and asparagus may be advantageously planted in two exposures, the one in the sun, and the other in the shade; by attending to this, the season of these most excellent vegetables will be prolonged. The ground for those should be made very rich with old and well rotted manure; to be right, the manure and soil should be half and half.

I would not recommend planting flowers along the fruit borders, as they draw off the nourishment from and deterioriate the quality of the fruit, at the same time, from their tendency to nourish weeds and to harbour the seeds of weeds, they are the cause of the bushes and edgings being so over-run, as perhaps from a temporary neglect, to get beyond all possibility of ever being cleaned. The walks of a garden of half an acre should be about four feet six inches wide, and so in proportion to larger gardens. The soil from the walks to the depth of from six to eight inches should be thrown upon the borders and quarters of the garden and the space so excavated, filled in with broken stone and gravel on the top, or with the best hard material for making walks, which may be within the reach and means of the owner.

Good cultivation includes not only the entire extirpation of all weeds as soon as they appear, but also, (and more especially in dry weather,) frequent stirrings of the whole of the surface of the ground, in the borders, and among the various crops as they advance in growth. If this be attended to, it will act largely as a preventive of weeds germinating, and also open the surface of the soil, encouraging the circulation of the air, as before spoken of, to proceed more freely, which is of essential benefit to all growing crops.

In some measure corresponding to these preliminary remarks, there must be an amount of preparatory labour before a kitchen garden can be expected to be either satisfactory or productive, and to any one not acquainted with the operations thus described, especially if they view the whole of the various improvements at once, garden making on this standard will appear to be a formidable business: but by directing the attention to each part of the work separately, and prosecuting that at all convenient times until