

beauty in shrubs is confined to those with lustrous flowers. Many of the finest lawns are now chiefly adorned by clumps or masses of shrubs, selected for the beauty and novelty of their foliage alone. They retain their vigor and freshness all the summer through, and anything more beautiful, especially on the larger lawns, than masses of the *Prunus Pissardi*, with its brilliant wine-colored foliage, and of similar masses of the golden-leaved syringa glancing and contrasting in the sparkling sunlight, it would be difficult to imagine. They are also strikingly effective when massed together, or when the *Prunus Pissardi* is blended with the variegated Cornelian cherry or other variegated and bright-colored shrubs.

Most trees and shrubs look better in clumps and curves than in straight lines, which are too rigid and prosaic for beauty: and perfect specimens of the Norway spruce, the cutleaved birch and the Camperdown elm, have a grand effect when standing alone on a lawn, if placed in the right position.

But how long am I to wander on with these rambling suggestions? I fear, indeed, I have already wearied the reader, and possibly come within range of the poet's sneer:—

“Fools rush in,  
Where angels fear to tread.”

Nevertheless, I trust something may have been said to excite a deeper interest in the beautification of our Canadian homes and their surroundings, and at least point the way in which not a little may be done to achieve this desirable object without much labor or expense.

We cannot yet expect in Canada the stately halls and ample parks of the old-world empires, where wealth and art have combined for ages to adorn them. Nor would this country be the happy Canada it is to-day if we had millionaires in palaces and the masses in hovels. But we can, with a little effort, surround our homes with many of the beauties of nature, especially those characteristic of the Dominion, and this alone would transform many a cheerless home into

“a thing of beauty and a joy forever.”

And where can we find a finer model in natural beauty, than our own loved Canada, for what land surpasses it in the grandeur and beauty of its mighty mountains, magnificent forests, and majestic lakes and rivers?

