

equal to that with which they scent the air at the first blush of morn.

The good gardener's work does not drag but he is beforehand with it, and when night comes he has the satisfaction of feeling that his day has been well spent, and no necessary operation has been neglected. Young said: "Procrastination is the thief of time," and the proverb applies very forcibly in the gardening. The gardener must ever remember that there is no time like the present, and that sometimes an hour delay may be fatal. And how about the poor gardener. He lies in bed, lets the weeds grow, and the caterpillars prey upon the growing crops, or blight, rust and mildew thrive upon the vitals of the fruit trees without any attempt to prevent or destroy them by the simple means now so well understood and placed at his disposal. He will say to himself, for instance: "I must put some hellebore on my currants bushes to day," but he does not do it while it is on his mind, neglects it and the next thing he notices is that the currant worms, more prompt than he, have stripped the bushes of their leaves and ruined the crop of fruit.

This a specimen of his proceedings, and shows that neglect always ends with disaster and loss. How superior too are the products of the good gardener's land; the crops are not only larger and earlier but of better quality; and quality in fruit, flowers, and culinary vegetables is of greater importance than quantity, hence the grower will feel justifiable pride in the fine specimens which he can send to table, and which his skill and care have assisted Dame Nature to produce in profusion and perfection. Instead of this the poor gardener will have nothing but poor stunted, juiceless worm-eaten rubbish to offer, and will always be "at outs" with the cook.

The good gardener will never be content with the knowledge he has acquired but will be continually searching for more, and part of his time will be spent in reading some authentic books or periodicals which treat on the subject, and keeping himself well posted as to what others are doing, or discovering, and not suffer himself to be left behind in this age of scientific progress. He will be an active member of the nearest horticultural society, and will take pleasure in exhibiting examples of his skill, not for his own glory alone, but that others may be emulated to constant endeavour to excel, and thus his profession will be elevated, and the public benefited. The poor

gardener will have no such aspirations; the less a man knows, it often happens that the more he thinks he knows, and the fool despises knowledge. If you advise him to study, he scoffs at the idea, calls improved processes "new fangled notions," says that authors cannot teach him anything, and that they only write for money or popularity. He keeps away from the Gardener's Institute or Horticultural Association under the plea that it is only run by a few for self interest who have no use for such as he, and in this he is right for they have not only to reform him. (1)

A good gardener will make no boast of his doings but let the results speak for themselves. It is no uncommon thing for a poor gardener to sneer at his neighbours success, and make the weather or lack of time an excuse for his own want of it, when in many cases it may be due entirely to his own shortcomings.

The poor gardener is poor in more senses than one. If we follow him into the privacy of his home we shall too frequently find that the force of his example has followed him there and the cultivation of his family, if he has one, has been as much neglected as that of his garden, and with similar results: the weeds of vice and immorality have taken or are taking root, healthy development of mind and body is not progressing, and there is a danger of bitter fruit being borne in after years.

In the home of the good gardener we may confidently look for a better state of things. The same motives and sentiments which actuate him in the management of his garden will affect his conduct as a husband and a father, and we shall find his cottage, neat, clean and the abode of happiness and contentment, because the rules of virtuous, social, and moral living are strictly obeyed, according to the precept and example of him who is at the head of the establishment, humble, though it may be.

Young man, if you propose to be a gardener, make up your mind to be a good, not a poor one, and then, if you are permitted to enjoy the inestimable blessings of health and strength, a pleasant, honorable, and reasonably profitable means of providing for yourself and family, fulfilling the conditions for which every man is sent into the world, and enjoying well earned peace at the last will opened to you and it will be your own fault if you don't take advantage of it.

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(1) A passage evidently incomplete. Ed.