

She wrung her hands together.

"This pipe, I have seen you admiring it, came from a wreck—so did the rug Jem Ball gave my father. The necklace my sister wears was taken from a drowned woman's neck, and she—. If they were not afraid of me, this house would be full of things taken from the poor drowned people."

Her face was bitter with shame and anger.

"Are there no magistrates or coastguards?"

"They killed the last coastguard; the present one thinks it safer to be blind to what goes on. My father is the only magistrate within ten miles; you know what he is."

She paced the room with wild steps, her long black cloak flung back from her shoulders.

"They are devils," she said, pausing in her walk and looking at him, "when they are once aroused. You would not believe if I told you the tales I have heard."

"You ought to leave this place," he said, holding her hand. "After that insolent man's words, among such savages it is hardly safe for you to remain."

"Where can I go?"

"We must arrange, you shall not stay here," he said, masterfully.

END OF PART THE FIRST.

SOME CURIOSITIES OF OLD GARDEN BOOKS.



THE literature of the garden, if the expression may be allowed, is extensive and varied. I am not now speaking of the modern literature on the subject, but of those more rare and less generally known works which were produced in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries on the subject of horticulture. A perusal of some of these works is a very instructive study, and gives us no

slight insight into the customs and manners of the times.

In the first place, one cannot fail to be struck with the many odd conceits and notions which prevailed in the minds of the writers. For example, some of the early manuals on gardening reveal the fact that their authors were not unaffected by the opinions so rife at the time as to the effect of the planets and their conjunctions on human affairs. There is, for instance, a small octavo MS. still in existence, dating from the fifteenth century, which is one of the oldest works on gardening, and a perusal of its few pages will show how strong was the belief of the compiler in astrological influences. With a perfectly grave face he gives minute instructions as to the operations which ought to be conducted under certain signs of the zodiac, as being propitious seasons for the purposes of grafting and pruning. Nor, again, can one help smiling at the oddities they recommend. Here is one taken from the MS. just mentioned which I find quoted in a comparatively recent work on garden literature: "Also for to make that a pearl, or a precious stone, or a farthing, or any other manner of thing be found in an apple, take an apple or a pear, after it has flowered and somewhat waxen, and thrust in hard at the bud's end, which one thou wilt of these things aforesaid, and mark well the apple that thou did'st put in the thing, whatever it be."

Perhaps the most interesting of all the early works on gardening are those of the celebrated Lord Chancellor Bacon, whom the satirist Pope describes in the following terms:

"The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind."

One of his celebrated essays is entitled "Of Gardens," and is well worth an attentive perusal, not for the information it contains (for the gardener of today would ridicule many of his favourite proposals), but because it is a remarkable testimony to the versatile genius of a man who, occupying a high social position, engaged in state and legal business, could yet devote some portion of his valuable time to an essay on horticulture. Moreover, from this work we may see what his own garden was like, and learn something of the experiments which were carried out there under his immediate supervision. Thus, we gather that the form of garden to which he was most partial was the square form, and he would have it "encompassed on all the four sides with a stately arched hedge, the arches to be on pillars of carpenter's work, of some ten feet high and six feet broad, and the space between of the same dimensions with the breadth of the arch." He liked to see a garden adorned with a fountain, but he had a horror (as who has not who really loves Nature in all her beauty?) of fantastic devices and shrubs distorted into all sorts of unnatural forms. He also approved of part of the garden (some six acres, his plans being adapted only for large estates) to be laid out as "a natural wilderness," to comprise such subjects as violets, strawberries, primroses, and other simple roots. "I like also," he says, "little heaps in the nature of molehills (such as are in wild heaths) to be set some with wild thyme, some with pinks, some with germander. . . ."

Bacon's other horticultural work, his *Sylva Sylvarum* was not published till a year after his death, in 1627. He has here a good deal to tell us as to the various kinds of pruning and grafting, and many of his suggestions are in full force to-day.

There were many popular superstitions rife at the time when Bacon wrote as to the mutual sympathy and antipathy of plants. That some plants thrive better and some worse in certain positions is, no doubt, true enough, but the Chancellor ridicules the notion of there being any such things as sympathy or the reverse between them as (indeed they were) "idle conceits."

One more fact should be noted with regard to the learned lord, and that is that he had a large share in laying out the grounds of the Inn of which he was so conspicuous a member. Much of the ground obtained through his instrumentality for this purpose still remains, but modern buildings have greatly narrowed the site.

"Physic-gardens" are institutions wholly unknown to us in these days, but judging by the accounts of them in the early writers, they were highly approved by them. They were, as the name denotes, plots of land set apart for the cultivation of herbs and plants famous for their medicinal virtues. Amongst those to which especial attention was paid were lavender, aniseed, camomile, and our old nursery friend, the rhubarb. Peppermint was also largely grown, but principally for the purpose of distilling a liquor from it; in the close of the eighteenth century upwards of one hundred acres were devoted to it. Evelyn mentions in his amusing diary that on the 12th of July, 1654, he went to inspect a physic-garden, and he notes as a great curiosity the now common "sensitive plant." He tells us that he also saw olive-trees, canes, and other plants in cultivation. The most celebrated physic-garden was at Chelsea. It had not only plants in the open air, but there were greenhouses in which tender subjects were grown. This garden is not of any great antiquity. It was rented, I believe, and laid out by the Apothecaries' Company in 1673, and eventually became their property by gift. Here also came Evelyn in 1685, and he tells us that he saw there a number of rare annuals, and the tree bearing Jesuit's bark, which had done such wonders

in cases of quartan ague. But that which pleased him most was "the subterranean heat, conveyed by a stove underneath the conservatory, all vaulted with brick, so as he has the doors and windows open in the hardest frosts, excluding only the snow." We afterwards learn that the keeper of this physic-garden was removed from his post: a fact not to be wondered at if these were the lines on which he worked.

From these early accounts we also learn much as to the prices of vegetables which obtained in those days. Many things, such as parsley, onions, garlic, beet-roots, lettuces, and green peas, were well known, but for some of them the most exorbitant prices were asked and paid. Hazlitt, in his charming book on the literature of the garden—a book always to be read with pleasure and profit—tells us that an entry under "The Privy Purse Expenses of King Henry VII. in May, 1496," notes that there was paid "to a man for a present of pescoddes (green peas) 3s. 4d." This was equivalent to £1 of our money. In another place we read that at a public dinner the sum of 3s. was charged for two cauliflowers, which would be about 9s. of the present currency. Many other vegetables were proportionately high in price.

It was not till many years after its introduction that the potato became largely used among the masses. Gerarde, the herbalist, citizen and surgeon of London, whose book was published in 1597, had some in his garden in Holborn, and in his "Herbal" he gives an illustration of one. From many indications we gather that a long period elapsed before the humble tuber ceased to be a dainty and a luxury. In the course of time, however, vegetables became more plentiful, and carrots and cabbages ceased to be imported from abroad, as they were so late as 1595.

Such are some of the points of interest which may be gathered from a perusal of these old records, and it is instructive to notice improvements which have been made in almost every department of horticulture since the days when Bacon wrote and Gerarde moralised.

H. ORMONDE.

CHIT-CHAT ON DRESS.—WHAT TO WEAR IN AUGUST.

FROM OUR PARIS AND LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

I.—FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.



REVELLING in the August sunshine, I often wish that Addison and his *confrères* of the *Spectator* were once more in the flesh to discourse in their pure and perfect English on the walking flower gardens into which the fashionable hats are now transformed. But it must be admitted that youth looks undeniably

beautiful in the extraordinary headgear which fickle Fashion has decreed to be worn. And yet much of the current millinery would seem to be the outcome of a distraught brain. In the vignette I have portrayed one of the most simple head-dresses, but I think anyone would be puzzled to construct such a hat without a model of the materials provided. Required, a perfectly flat shape of fine straw, a few yards of ribbon, and two sprays of roses. To begin at the beginning, you must fashion the straw disc into form. In the present instance what is required is a box-pleat at the back. This draws down at the sides, overshadows the face, and leaves an indentation in the centre, where the crown is to be. On this a twisted piece of the ribbon is introduced. The