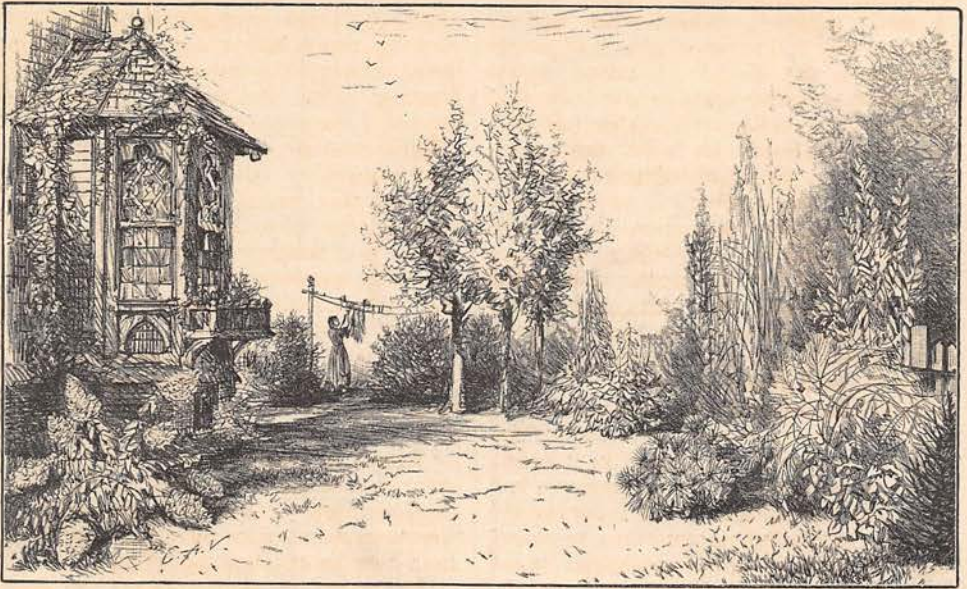


VILLAGE LAWN-PLANTING.



SMALL VILLAGE LOT PLANTED FOR GENERAL EFFECT.

LAWN-PLANTING, to be successful, must have definite aims and purposes. It must not be taken up at random, but must have a clearly foreseen end or result in view. For those employing landscape architects and gardeners, the accomplishment of well-planned and practical lawn-planting is much easier; yet there are always, for any one, dif-

ficulties which must be met with judgment and some degree of skill, whatever be the assistance rendered.

The amount of money to be spent is ever a prime consideration. Indeed, much injury to the reputation of lawn-planting is often wrought by carelessly formed estimates. People say the planting will cost

NOBLE SILVER FIR (*PICEA NOBILIS*).JAPANESE MAGNOLIA (*MAGNOLIA STELLATA*).

too much. They seldom, however, fix their estimates high, but generally so low that the real cost greatly exceeds the amount previously estimated. Of course, reasons for these mistaken estimates are easy to find, and first and foremost is lack of proper attention to the subject. If people would give the same close study to the lawn that they give to building a house or buying a horse, results would be more satisfactory. It is evident, therefore, that the way to secure good lawn-planting is to do it yourself. Acquire all information as to right methods, listen to all suggestions, but make the work your own, no matter who assists you. To this end, visit parks and nurseries and learn to love plants and recognize their individual characteristics, their likes and dislikes as well as their beauties. This will make you master of the situation in any case.

One thing is certain, however: there must be a catholic taste shown in selecting plants, if the lawn is to be properly laid out. The tendency to follow mere fancies, or to use only particular and favorite plants, must be kept in strict abeyance. Many and various plants should be employed intelligently. Hardy deciduous trees, shrubs, evergreens, herbaceous and bedding plants,—in short, everything that conduces to the beauty of the lawn, must be united into one harmonious whole. Doubtless there are occasions when a mass of color, obtained by using many plants of one kind, is desirable, but generally a variety of plants and methods of combination is more desirable. The eye thus never becomes sated, and is ever renewing its pleasure. But what is the actual condition of lawn-planting as practiced to-day on myriads of small places throughout the country,—places, moreover, that belong to intelligent people? The entire collection consists frequently of a few fruit-trees in the background, an elm, a Norway spruce, an arbor vitæ hedge, with a bed of the glowing coleus. All these plants, be it noticed, are of the most pronounced and coarsest type. They may be and are valuable in suitable positions or in other combinations, but are decidedly ill-fitted for the interior of a small place, both from the character of their beauty and their habit of excessive growth. We intend no disrespect for either of these varieties, many of their qualities being, in their own way, most admirable; but we do say that if other and good selections were made after studying parks or nurseries, fewer poor lawns would exist. Were this the general prac-

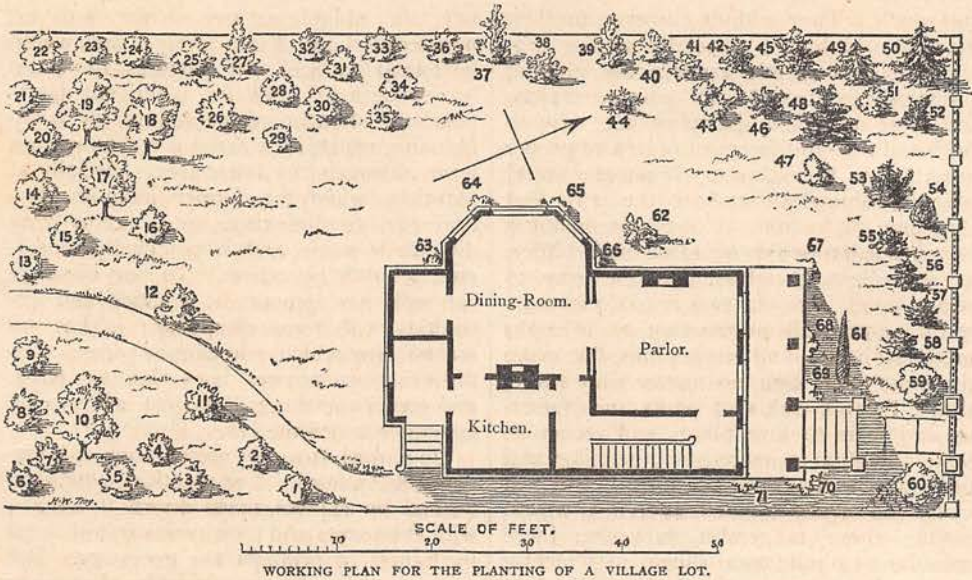
tice, the ubiquitous tree dealer, with his wonderful plates of impossible plants, would be forced to seek for pastures new, and leave the field open for intelligent lawn-planting. Landscape gardening (or lawn-planting, which in a sense is a synonymous term, although the latter treats specially of planting, while the former includes also drainage, road-making, etc.), seems very difficult to some, and is practically considered a myth by others. To one class we can only say, practice it yourself and difficulties will soon disappear; it has no arcana into which you cannot pierce. To the other we answer, lawn-planting exists, and has its æsthetic laws, just as taste in general has definite laws.

One word as to the presentation of lawn-planting systems. For practical work, performed by experts, maps drawn to a scale, with the plants and their positions indicated by figures or symbols, are necessary. But even then much scope must be allowed to the individual taste of the planter, for no map is so successfully and practically drawn as to form an absolute model for planting.

For general suggestions to the uninitiated in planting, we believe sketches of certain parts of the lawn should be more used. The trees appear then before you as they will actually seem, and you feel the reality and possibility of the scene in a way that no map can suggest.

Yet the real question is, how can we best make clear, even with pictures and maps, the practical application of lawn-planting in any form. Perhaps the best method will be to show a place which we have planted ourselves, with all its defects and graces, and thus trace out for you something of the methods and materials used. It may be, doubtless, more or less like other people's lawns, and by no means such as every one will want. Since we possessed, however, a lot of fifty feet by one hundred and fifty feet, and accomplished certain results which we believed were successful within given limitations, we have thought our experience might benefit others. We have also endeavored to make the character of the work more clear by the few foregoing illustrations of the actual plants,—portraits that have been carefully studied from the originals as they stood in our grounds.

Let us see, then, what we actually did with this lot fifty feet by one hundred and fifty feet. We found, to tell the truth, much work already done for us. The house and fences—tight board fences—were built, so



- 1, *Euonymus nanus*; 2, *Calycanthus lævigatus*; 3, *Syringa sinensis*; 4, *Lonicera Tartarica*; 5, *Deutzia crenata fl. pl.*; 6, *Weigela rosea*; 7, *Spirea prunifolia*; 8, *Forsythia viridissima*; 9, *Spirea Thunbergii*; 10, *Aesculus hippocastanum*; 11, *Amygdalus pumila*; 12, *Spirea callosa* alba; 13, *Pyrus Japonica*; 14, *Colutea arborea*; 15, *Spirea Nepalensis*; 16, *Weigela nana variegata*; 17, *Acer rubrum*; 18, *Acer platanoides*; 19, *Liquid amber*; 20, *Spirea Dougllassii*; 21, *Syringa grandiflora*; 22, *Ligustrum Californicum*; 23, *Amorpha fruticosa*; 24, *Weigela rosca*; 25, *Syringa Emodi*; 26, *Cornus alba*; 27, *Tamarix Africana*; 28, *Euonymus Europeus*; 29, *Hibiscus variegatus*; 30, *Hypericum kalmianum*; 31, *Lonicera Tartarica*; 32, *Syringa Josikea*; 33, *Spirea Fortunii macrophylla*; 34, *Viburnum plicatum*; 35, *Deutzia gracilis*; 36, *Symphoricarpos glomerata*; 37, *Tamarix Indica*; 38, *Exochorda grandiflora*; 39, *Spirea opulifolia aurea*; 40, *Spirea Thunbergii*; 41, *Cercis Japonica*; 42, *Abies Conica*; 43, *Dwarf Japanese Maples*; 44, *Pinus strobus pumila*; 45, *Picea cilicica*; 46, *Pinus sylvestris pumila*; 47, *Magnolia stellata*; 48, *Picea nobilis*; 49, *Retinospora obtusa*; 50, *Pinus Cembra*; 51, *Ghent Azalea*; 52, *Abies Orientalis*; 53, *Abies Canadensis pendula*; 54, *Biota elegantissima aurea*; 55, *Abies Gregoriana*; 56, *Juniperus suecica nana*; 57, *Abies Canadensis macrophylla*; 58, *Retinospora plumosa aurea*; 59 and 60, *Spirea Thunbergii*; 61, *Thuja pyramidalis*; 62, *Hydrangea paniculata*; 63, *Clematis Sophia*; 64, *Clematis Jackmanii*; 65, *Clematis Helène*; 66, *Clematis azurea grandiflora*; 67, *Wistaria sinensis*; 68, *Lonicera brachyypoda*; 69, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*; 70, *Wistaria magnifica*; 71, *Periploca græca*.

that, the ground being tolerably level, we had already the most definite features established. To be sure, the house was wooden, and the fence a stiff angular affair, which did not by any means harmonize with the lines of the building. On the other hand there was a good bay-window, giving out on a side lawn, and a rich, well-drained soil in which to grow plants. The board fence had its advantages too, for it shut out a neighbor's chicken yard and sundry other unsightly objects. Altogether we flattered ourselves that we had obtained a comfortable and rather picturesque-looking house, in just the spot that suited our convenience.

We had, it is true, indulged in sundry delightful dreams of a stone Gothic cottage of the purest and richest style, with mulioned windows, etc.; and above all, surrounded with well-ordered plantations constructed on the soundest principles of art, and in strict accordance with the architectural spirit of the house.

But what were we to do? We had not really, if we confess the truth, a great deal of money to spend; and we must be near the railroad station, the doctor and the

schools. And then there were actually many advantages about the home we had selected. From an æsthetic point of view, the style of our house was not to be mentioned lightly, and the bay-window was decidedly a feature. Therefore, with plenty of good turf on the lawn, a few shrubs, and a high board fence to protect us from uncongenial neighbors, we felt that our lot might have its compensations after all.

We believed, too, that in many of the choice and dwarf plants that had come of late from Japan and elsewhere, there existed great and little-known capacities for producing pleasing and lasting effects upon the lawn. There, we thought, lay our chance of doing something uncommon. But do not let us convey the idea that we did our work in a year. Our means were limited, and we had a notion moreover that all plants must be selected personally in the nursery after much study on our part. This took time, so that more than one year passed before we completed our plantation, and at least eight before the place looked as shown in the picture. We should explain also that we never bought large plants, and we feel

assured that to this chiefly we owe the perfect development of each specimen.

Let us now look at the working plan and see how we did this planting that produced the effect shown in the first picture. It will be readily seen that the combinations are very simple, based on few principles other than exhibiting the plant in the best manner possible. Plants cannot, indeed, be treated as the architect treats his wood or stone. They are living things, not blocks, and their treatment on the lawn to be successful must be individual, must correspond with their higher organism. A few of these principles, as we have seen, are light deciduous shade to the south, evergreens to the north, open lawns, skirting shrubbery, and on small places, at least, few if any large trees to encumber the ground with their roots.

In dwelling on the lawn-planting conditions and possibilities of our lot, we found ourselves thinking of it as a real picture. There were extreme distance, background, a broad, interesting middle space, and in front, the very choicest and richest plants convenient for close inspection from the main stand-point.

The first thing we felt in looking at our back-yard—for we always want such places treated first—was a bare distance, long, narrow, and confined. We were necessarily confined, but none the less, there was a certain amount of breadth of treatment possible for us. A kitchen garden, moreover, which, according to some, should occupy this bare distance was not likely to prove, under our management, a source of either profit or pleasure.

Potatoes, peas and tomatoes were not satisfactory that always came (when not eaten up by bugs and worms) just as everything of the sort could be had in market for just half what they cost us. We therefore decided to give up any attempt at a kitchen garden, and content ourselves with grapes and small fruits trained against the board fence. The middle of the back-yard, thirty or forty feet square, we devoted to grass for the purpose of croquet, drying clothes or amusing children, and thus also obtained the desired open treatment. To shut out this more or less (probably less) attractive part of the lot, we conceived the idea of throwing across the lawn, about fifty feet from the rear of the house, an irregular belt of large shrubbery, broader at the sides than in the middle, at which point, as shown on the map, we contrived an entrance to the rear grounds. The peep thus given from the front lawn back to another region, as it were, greatly increased the apparent extent of the

lot, and gave it perspective. In short, you thus looked back through the picture which was otherwise shut in by shrubbery and trees. The exposure, in this case, was to the south, which requires for shelter from the sun, light, deciduous foliage. Had the direction been north, we would have used evergreens, probably hemlocks, the graceful foliage of which is easily kept within bounds by pruning. As a general rule, evergreens afford a heavy, peculiar shade, which is less agreeable in summer than that of deciduous trees. On the other hand, evergreens are specially fitted for protecting from cold, north winds.

But to return to the shrubs used as a background to the regular lawn; it will be seen that they are disposed on the map in mass. It is, indeed, the only mass proper on the place, for we conceived that a small place, except in the actual background, should exhibit in every case an interesting and visible individual specimen. The shrubs that here make up the mass are large, rapid-growing varieties, such as *Spireas prunifolia*, *Douglasii*, *Thunbergii* and *Nepalensis*; *Colutea arborea*, *Ligustrum Californicum*, *Weigela rosea* and similar varieties; *Pyrus Japonica*, etc.; *Syringa grandiflora*, etc.; *Forsythia viridissima*, *Deutzia crenata*, fl. pl., and one or two varieties of *amorpha*. We beg pardon for presenting such an array of botanical names, but after haunting nurseries for some years, we have learned that we are more apt to get the plant we want, if we ask or write for it by its correct botanical name. The bridal-wreath spirea, for instance, is a more suggestive and pleasing name than *Spirea prunifolia*, but then you see *Spirea prunifolia* is understood nearly the world over. Well, we had our shrubs, and in this case, we made the planting very simple, for what we wanted was a mass, a screen, a background to produce the desired picture effect. Interested friends told us we must plant a hedge, but we had our own ideas about that, one of which was that it was stiff and formal, a monstrosity that could only be tolerated where nothing else was possible. Then we had seen arbor vitæ hedges badly injured by severe winters, and had been bored by their monotonous color, which, administered in large doses, becomes almost disagreeable. Osage orange hedges, cheap, rampant and suckering, might do on the prairie farms of the West, but were a nuisance on small places. We did not doubt that many hedges were more or less satisfactory when properly grown, pruned, and protected. But supposing we were sick or lazy, and could not afford to hire

it done? On the whole, we determined to take a new departure, and make our hedge of deciduous shrubs. It could not, of course, be exactly a regular hedge; but it would be pleasant, however, to look upon in a southern exposure, with flowers blooming here and there all summer. We set them in the ground very simply, with no measurement specially, only on a general rule of four feet apart and two or three rows deep, planted alternate fashion. We nevertheless, as already noted, managed to distribute about through the mass a continual series of bloom during the entire growing season. Pruning we always attended to at least once a year, but at different seasons; late flowering varieties usually in winter or early spring, and the early flowering ones immediately after blooming. The labor of pruning, however, was not great or excessively systematic, for we specially wanted informality and irregular grace. It suited our ideas of a background: that is, we did not want a smooth wall of foliage against or near which to erect our individual arboreal works of nature's art. But, although we felt pleased with this novel hedge, there was still something needed. The shade it gave was insufficient, because we made it a rule to keep it down to eight feet or so, by pruning from time to time both roots and branches. It is surprising how many years deciduous shrubs can be thus kept, if pruning is practiced, and not shearing. Besides the shade, we conceived that the artistic effect of the background would be improved by introducing one tall group of trees,—for, indeed, the place would not admit of more. It made the background, we thought, more interesting, and contrasted with and relieved the low size of the other plants.

One other quality we sought to secure by this feature, and that was additional and prominent color. Many otherwise well-arranged plantations fail decidedly in effect from a lack of variety and richness of color. Are we not, perhaps, more apt to think of form than color, in grouping plants on the lawn? However, the way we accomplished the effect we wanted was by planting in a triangle, eight feet apart and in the south-west corner of the lot, three deciduous shade-trees, namely, a Norway maple, a scarlet maple, and a liquid amber. They are all somewhat broad and round-headed, and not really lofty. Their coloring, also, is very lovely in spring, especially the foliage and flowers of the scarlet maple. In fall they are yellow and crimson and gold; and,

by training them together as one head of foliage, contiguous branches being pruned year by year, a grand, variegated color effect was produced. Under these trees we had seats, and, with the house, turf, and plants in front, we congratulated ourselves on having a very pleasant grove for a lot fifty feet by one hundred and fifty. When this was done, however, our lawn did not seem well balanced; so we planted, in the opposite and south-east corner, a horse-chestnut. The horse-chestnut has a shadowy, yet light-colored, broad foliage, which consequently relieved and offset the effect of the darker maples and liquid amber on the other side of the lot. To be sure, the horse-chestnut becomes rusty sometimes by August; but then so do many other trees, and beside the spot where this one was planted was just a little low, which suits the horse-chestnut. The horse-chestnut acquires a bad name sometimes when it is planted on high, dry land, which seldom agrees with its constitution. You see, we had not only taken up the notion that all plants, even individual members of a variety, have each their characteristic and peculiar expression or appearance, but also that it pays to consider their simplest habits in the most painstaking way. We grew, thereby, to seek and enjoy their company more, and they seemed to flourish better and appear better under a treatment which thus considered their slightest needs.

Having planted a true background,—for the last fifty feet of the lot had a remote value as an effect in the picture,—we began to arrange the groups on the main body of the lawn. We say body, but it was so narrow—twenty-five feet—that we were obliged to content ourselves with planting only the outskirts, or edges. In fact, our lawn proper was very precious to us. We thought the plants should be subordinated to the turf rather than turf to plants. Having, therefore, dug the lawn deep, and sowed it thickly with grass-seed, we arranged for a long sweep of green through to the very front. A few jutting points of shrubbery, here and there, served to enlarge the appearance of the place by the irregular, indeterminate contours thus produced. With extended turf came also increased breadth and distance, and likewise a delightful field for the play of sunlight and shadow. Lawn-mowers have done wonders, in these latter days, in the development of perfect lawns. Consequently, no excuse exists now for poor turf.

Keeping in mind that turf was of prime importance, we proceeded to complete the

rest of our planting. Around the bower of trees we clustered the ordinary shrubs of the background; but as we approached the front with our plantation we selected, as a rule, choicer and choicer specimens. We have come, indeed, to recognize distinct relations between plants, much as we recognize them between men. Social distinctions can hardly be applied to plants; but none the less have we ordinary plants whose special province is in mass,—that are, in a certain sense, plebeians. Other worthy plants perform yeoman service, either singly or in mass, and fail only in exhibiting distinguished qualities. Such qualities are reserved for choice (though not necessarily rare) plants, aristocrats that court the most minute attention and appreciation of their beauty. They are all, truly, excellent and honorable members of the commonwealth of the lawn, only each class has its special duties to perform, individually and collectively. You will notice, therefore, that among the plants we used toward the front there is a richer contrast, and that their individual relations demand closer consideration. In short, the plants were finer, and must receive, therefore, more artistic treatment. We require, moreover, here as well as in all deciduous grouping, not only a bouquet of flowers and foliage, but a bouquet of flowers and foliage that will present some pleasing form or color throughout the season.

The practical consideration also comes in that we are obliged to plant the face of a high board fence, to plant it out, in fact, with deciduous shrubbery which is specially suited for the purpose. There is a double row and here and there a triple row of shrubs used, the larger ones back and the smaller ones in front,—the natural way of planting all shrub groups. But everything in becoming choicer does not necessarily become expensive in the same ratio,—a plant is not better because it is expensive, neither, on the other hand, is it always preferable because it is cheap. Occasionally we find very cheap plants with the choicest qualities for ornamental effect.

Let us then turn to the picture, and touch briefly on the important qualities of the few plants there distinguishable. These plants are the special ornaments of the scene, and are therefore rightly prominent. The other plants on the map are well worthy of study, but we prefer to dwell on special favorites in the picture. That you might understand the full meaning of our preference, we wish it were possible for you to look with us on their dew-laden charms on a fresh June

morning, or in the evening, when the level rays of the setting sun, streaming athwart the lawn, bring out to the best advantage both color and form. The more vertical rays of noon seem to deaden the effect of flowers and foliage. If you seek the best effect of a plant always stand between the plant and a sun not too far above the horizon. But what are the plants in question? First comes a lilac near the grove. In spite of much said to the contrary, a lilac is not considered a choice plant. It is true some have gone so far as to say that the lilac is worthy to occupy the place of the rhododendron, where the rhododendron fails to thrive, but people generally do not think so, and all the eloquence in the world will hardly change their opinion. If the lilac were a plant recently introduced from remote regions of Asia there would be more chance, but hardly now. We confess, however, to a decided liking for the lilac, and then, you know, there are lilacs and lilacs, and the *Lilac emodii*, which we have used, is one of the finest of its genus. Few realize the complete, and even utter, diversity of form and color and general value that exists among plants of every genus, as we shall find still better exemplified when we come to look hereafter at one or two spireas. *Lilac emodii* is well fitted for the position we have chosen for it, being tall, dark-green and of well-defined, bold outline. The flowers are dark purple. Choice and more difficult to propagate than other lilacs, it must always be singled out for admiration; and as we look on it from the grove at our leisure, we feel that its striking form harmonizes well with the character of the plants in the neighborhood. But what have we in front, making evident and relieving the lilac's large and peculiar outline? *Cornus alba*, or the red-stemmed dog-wood, is a broad, irregular-growing shrub, not rare, but very picturesque. Its red stems are peculiarly striking in winter, and throughout the summer and fall its rich, glossy foliage continues to retain a marked and curious habit. It is a cheap plant, but choice,—one of the plants that attract alike singly or in mass. Gradually we employed, as we left the background, plants of richer qualities and always of diverse form from those in the immediate neighborhood. The *Euonymus Europeus*, standing back near the fence, is, unlike the dog-wood, very erect, with dark-green leaves, but specially remarkable in fall for bright scarlet berries, four-hooded, and brilliant until winter. No

plant is more striking in fall, and in summer the flowers, as well as the foliage, are attractive. Near the euonymus, with broader shrubs between, is a tamarisk, in some respects the most graceful of all shrubs. Its delicate foliage, tenderly green, waving and plume-like, has an oriental appearance curiously different from any other shrub. The exquisite pink flowers come on the ends of the branches, and when the whole plant is laden and glistening with dew or rain, the effect is charming. This is a cheap shrub and an old shrub, easily transplanted, and hardy in every way. Then why is it not better appreciated? For the simple reason that it is seldom pruned, or else pruned improperly. Few shrubs need more intelligent pruning, for it is a rampant grower, and, if neglected, develops long, naked branches with straggling foliage on the outer parts. Witness, in proof of this, numerous instances of unkempt, naked tamarisks in certain squares of New York City. Such forlorn specimens no one would accept as a gift, much less attribute to them charming qualities. Pruning should mean with the tamarisk a severe cutting back, every year or two, within a short distance of the old wood, to encourage bushiness and renew vigor. But to do this without further knowledge will end in failure. Tamarisks are commonly found of three varieties, *Africana*, *Gallica* and *Indica*. The first blooms in June, the second in July or thereabouts, and the last in August and September; this last is, moreover, very strong-growing. It follows, therefore, that the early varieties must be pruned sharply immediately after blooming, while there is yet time to make a new growth, and the late flowering ones in winter or early spring.

All the large shrubs to which we have just referred should have plenty of space to develop. They should be also not less than four feet apart, for we do not believe, on this part of the lawn at least, that shrubs should be crowded to a degree that will obscure their individual beauty. The smaller shrubs in front may, of course, be planted nearer, say three feet. There is a notion abroad, among very high authorities, too, that all shrubs, when required in a group, should be piled together *en masse*, two or three feet apart, with a view to immediate effect, to be thinned afterward as the case may require. We fear, however, that these high authorities forget that few like to sacrifice a plant once established. It is, besides, very difficult to take out a

shrub here and there from a group and leave the remaining plants as well related to each other in position as they were before. We early made up our minds, after some unfortunate experience of crowded planting, that in every group of plants we constructed there should be plenty of room for each individual to develop its full beauty. The pruning could be so managed, we knew, as to restrain excessive development for a score of years.

You see long association with, and study of, plants, from a lawn-planting point of view, had taught us to prize the individual effect of a plant at least as much as its appearance in mass. We felt more and more every year that not only every variety, but every plant of the variety, had a different and characteristic expression varying with each month of the year. No wonder, then, we felt strongly on the subject of crowding.

We had also another peculiar notion, which more than one friend combated, and that was to spade only around each plant from year to year, leaving untouched spaces of turf between. Indeed, we grew to dislike very much the patches or beds of raw spaded earth into which so many groups of shrubs are huddled. Culture is undoubtedly necessary for all plants, but we have found spading for a small space about each plant and liberal fertilizing, productive of entirely satisfactory results.

Our planting came now closer to the front and to the termination of the board fence. Here are two remarkable shrubs, one tall and spreading, the other round and compact. They are both spireas, but utterly different, noteworthy instances of the diversity of appearance found in varieties of the same genus. The tall one, *Spiraea opulifolia aurea*, has strong, decided outlines and rich golden leaves, all studded, as it were, in June with short-stemmed white flowers. It is picturesque and beautiful, and need not be rare, for it is easily propagated.

Directly in front is *Spiraea thunbergii*, most delicate and exquisite of spireas. It should have been the bridal wreath spirea, but had not probably arrived from Japan when that name was given to *S. prunifolia*. The leaves are scarcely more than half an inch long, and of a light-green, almost yellow, color. They weep and cluster in picturesque masses all over the bush, and are loaded with numerous white flowers in early spring, which weigh them down like snow-wreaths. But their special perfection and glory comes in late fall, when the deli-

cate flushes and tinges of pink, crimson and yellow are truly wonderful to behold.

To those who have followed carefully our planting thus far, and who have also noted the prices in nurserymen's catalogues, it will be evident that we have done our work cheaply. We could not, however, leave deciduous plants without introducing a few gems as we approached the foreground. Among the few we notice in the picture, and one of the very best on our lawn, is the Japan Judas-tree. It is a true shrub, of moderate growth, although not exactly dwarf. Every characteristic, in other respects, is rich and choice, well fitted to grace the most conspicuous part of the lawn. The wood or bark is drab and the branches more or less erect and well defined, although the general outline is broad or round. Lustrous, and of firm and fine texture, the heart-shaped leaves have a remarkable effect during every season after early spring until late fall. But the crowning beauty of the plant is the flowers, which come out early, before the leaves. Wreathing the branches with close-clinging clusters, they are very numerous and of a fine red color. No richer or more beautiful shrub, in its own peculiar way, exists than the Japan Judas-tree, but it is not commonly offered in nurseries, and is therefore little known.

We reached now the transition point of our shrubbery where we felt it necessary to pass into evergreens on the north-west side of the house. A feeling of dislike for abruptness, however, prompted us to allow a few choice deciduous plants to stray over among the evergreens, though, as a rule, we like to see one or the other completely predominate. In doing this we employed, as will be seen by the map, three of the exquisite Japanese maples, the leaves of which are wonders for varied colors and deeply cut forms. Here also we planted the rare Japanese magnolia *stellata*, or *halleana*, a shrub, both hardy and slow of growth, with delicate, pure white, sweet-scented flowers somewhat resembling the clematis or the water-lily. These flowers come earlier in the spring than those of any other magnolia, and bloom freely while the plant is yet only three or four years old. You will note in the illustration of this plant how picturesque and graceful are the shapes and masses it assumes. In this case they suggest a wreath of laurel, and in all cases make a very effective background for the white and spotless flowers. A Ghent azalea, likewise, adorns this part of

the lawn, brightening with rich-hued flowers the outskirts of the evergreen groups. The hardy or Ghent azalea stands almost without peer among hardy deciduous shrubs. Fine in foliage and tint of bark, the rich and varied hues of its flowers range from white and yellow to pink and deep orange almost on the same petal, and it is, moreover, dwarf. By this time we came to employ evergreens entirely, and as we were in the foreground we selected specimens of a richness of color and form that would repay the most lingering examination. We were obliged, at the same time, to choose moderately dwarf plants that, treated now and then with a touch of knife and spade, could be kept eight feet or less for a score of years. The house, fifteen feet only from the road, we could not wisely, and would not wish to, shut in entirely from that direction. It seemed as if a glimpse of the lawn was due to passers by, and that a view of the street from a partially sheltered position would be always agreeable to the occupants of the house. Shut in as much as possible on the sides, we felt that the front should be partly open.

In the foreground of the picture, among the last stray deciduous shrubs you can see two or three of the specimen evergreens we used. The dwarf white pine is rounded and distinct with all the soft richness and marvelous penciling of needles which always strikes one in pictures of any variety of the white pine. We have also the conical Norway spruce in the immediate foreground and on one side. This evergreen is probably the favorite among all the choicer evergreens. Its conical symmetry is perfect, never requiring a touch of the knife. It is also hardy, easily transplanted and blessed with all sorts of practical qualities. Every one likes it, moreover, because it suggests a perfect specimen of a common Norway spruce, with which all are familiar. Then there is the noble silver fir (*Picea nobilis*) singly and very effectively illustrated. In color it might almost be termed the richest of evergreens; and the foliage, furthermore, groups itself into picturesque masses which make the contour as varied as the color is charming. It is from the Rocky Mountains and attains great size there, but grows very slowly while young and could be readily kept twenty years as a small-sized evergreen.

The picture of our modest attempt at lawn-planting is now nearly before you, described as well as space will permit.

Around the bay-window, the architectural point of interest in the scene, we have trained white and blue wistarias, and covered the lower portion with beautiful clematis vines, Jackmanni, viticella, Hellène and *Azurea grandiflora*, bearing purple, pink, or white flowers. Mingled among these, and trained along the brick-work of the foundation, are exquisite Japanese creepers (*Ampelopsis veitchii*), which cling like ivy to whatever they touch, and are moreover hardy and beautifully colored in fall. Indeed, we have trained vines about the house in every suitable position, honeysuckles, wistarias and Virginia creepers, feeling that the angles and stiff outlines of the buildings were thus softened, relieved and rendered picturesque. One thing however we were particular about, and that was to leave sufficient openings among the vines of our piazza to let in light and air, and breezes, for that matter, to drive away mosquitoes. The most prominent angle of the house, the recess of the bay-window, as appears in the picture, is planted out with the broad foliage of a *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, by some called the finest of shrubs. Massive and effective it certainly is all through the fall, when its great panicles of flowers, eighteen inches long, array themselves successively in white, purple, pink, and deep crimson.

And so you have our lawn in a certain way before you for what it is worth.* We do not assert that it has high artistic value, or that it presents an authoritative selection of plants. But we do assert that it is the

* The cost of plants for this lawn was less than fifty dollars.

result of careful study of much lawn-planting material, and of the pursuance of a settled system based on simple and practical artistic rules. It may be still insisted that lawn-planting admits of the widest and most diverse treatment, and that every one must do as he pleases. But even to those who refuse to take an artistic stand-point, we refuse the right to select a position for each plant on the lawn by tossing up the several contents of a bushel of potatoes, and fixing the positions on the respective spots where the tubers fall. We have known such advice given, and therefore warn against it, absurd as it is. People are, moreover, always ready to accept the teachings of a toss-penny philosophy. Besides this, there are many so-called systems in vogue. They assume various shapes. One confides in the intuitive taste of a newly fledged lawn-planter profound in the criticism of paintings or bonnets. Another plants his trees in straight rows, and lines his paths with shrubberies from end to end. The conceptions of such people, in regard to lawn-planting, are all mixed and confused, without form and void. We must refer to correct standards and definite principles if we expect to succeed in lawn-planting, and seek first of all to know plants individually. To sum up a great deal in a few words, we must endow our lawn "with the grace, the diversity, the unforeseen, the fleeting suppleness of a living thing without diminishing the effect of the masses." At the same time, we should also "deck its surface with the most elegant series of painted and sculptured ornaments." Taine says this of the most wonderful product of Grecian art, the Greek temple, but it applies with no less force to the well-planted lawn.

FALSE AND TRUE.

THE false is fairer than the true. Behold
 Yon cloudy giant on the hills supine!—
 The figure of a falsehood that doth shine,
 Armored and helmeted, in such a gold
 As in the marts was never bought or sold,—
 Giant and armor the exalted sign
 Of shapes less glorious and tints less fine—
 Of forms of truth outmatched a thousand fold!
 Ah, Poesie! Thou charmer and thou cheat!
 Painting for eyes that fill with happy tears,
 In tints delusive, pictures that repeat
 Dull, earthly forms in heavenly atmospheres!
 How dost thou shame the truth, till it appears
 Less lovely far than thy divine deceit!