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The way to make Washington City  
The Eden of America

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO  
MY GRAND NIECE, MISS MAY  
FLETCHER BECAUSE OF HER  
GREAT LOVE OF THE BEAUTY  
OF NATURE EVEN AS A CHILD



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AN APPEAL TO REPLACE CROOKED, DEFORMED AND INCONGRUOUS TREES OF THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN AND PUBLIC PARKS OF WASHINGTON, D. C., BY THE BEST SPECIMEN OF FRUIT AND TREE LIFE TO BE FOUND IN AMERICA OR AMERICA'S EDEN.



To one who has made a study of trees, bushes, vines, and flowers, and the part they can be made to play in making a home in a city or suburb so as to give it that degree of beauty, dignity, or grandeur that the building and the place it occupies would seem best adapted for it, is constantly shocked by the absence of any well formed plan to select and arrange these so as to show more grace and beauty than mere brick and stone can give to a home. To those who are constantly crying out for a "Beautiful Washington," let me remind them that mere houses, however beautiful in structure, and streets, however straight and smooth, must be supplemented by an intelligent and well designed plan of arranging its flora, so as to make it conform to the architectural beauty of the building and grounds surrounding the same, as well as to the character of those who are to occupy it, even including their nationality.

No man will attempt to herd his sheep with a bulldog, or hunt pheasants with a coach dog, or use a hound to draw his snow-sleigh. Why not use the same degree of intelligence in arranging trees, shrubs, flowers, etc., about the house?

Let the German home be surrounded by "Unter den Linden" and the home of the Norwegian with the spruce, but give your Vermont neighbor a yard full of sugar maples and let the Southern gentleman have his magnolia grandiflora, and who would deny to the hardy Scotchman, though in miniature, his rocky glen or stony cliff, familiar scene of his boyhood days, with its native trees and shrubs growing among them, even here in the National Capital?

Washington, D. C., is no mushroom town, to be moved when a new gold strike is made or another oil gusher is drilled, but the permanent

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Capital of a great nation, and the trees should be hardy and long-lived, and of a more stately character than our present ones.

Too much attention is given in all our cities to planting soft wood trees that break easily in a brisk wind or storm, while their leaves serve as a favorite food for the web catipilla. If the propagation of worms in our modern cities is desired, why not plant the mulberry tree and raise the silk worm, as there is some profit to be had in the matter of silk culture, beside giving profitable employment to those who need it. The architect, stone masons, and bricklayers have given our city many beautiful buildings, and these should not be marred by the presence of deformed, diseased, and maimed trees. Let the trees that surround the Congressional Library and the Corcoran Gallery of Art be such as are in keeping with their beauty, grace, and dignity. The trees in Capitol Park and those that surround the several stately buildings on Capitol Hill can be replaced by others that will add 100 per cent to the beauty of them, as well as giving more dignity and character to these buildings.

After fretting over the unprepossessing and incongruous character of the trees in the front lawn of the White House for a number of years, I secured a permit in June to take photographs of them. Not being willing to risk my judgment in the matter, I got Mr. W. H. Forman, of the Washington Tree Expert Co., to assist in securing photos of the bent, diseased, and ill-designed trees there. Although a lover of trees and a specialist in treating them, and having lived in the city for several years, he expressed himself profoundly astonished at their poor condition. He quite agreed with me that every one of them should be removed and replaced by trees that would be more nearly in keeping with the dignity of the Presidential residence. No house in the United States should be surrounded by trees of a more beautiful type and stately appearance than those on the front lawn of the White House. This lawn should be the pride and joy of every American and the envy of every European.

More than a century has passed since the City of Washington became the National Capital. With the passing of the last wigwam the last incongruous growth of forest trees should have passed, if we are intelligent and cultured enough to understand the design God had in view in giving man so many varieties of trees for his many uses, and use ~~our~~ our intelligence to locate these trees, shrubbery, vines, etc., about our cities and homes, so as to designate both the character of the man, as well as his nationality, and thus show our refined taste to its best advantage.

The elm tree is essentially a tree designed by God to shade the wide streets and sidewalks of our cities, towns, and villages, or to stand alone as a giant umbrella shade tree, while the Lombardy poplar was designed to line the roadside leading from the pretentious farm mansion on an elevation to the main thoroughfare leading to the market town. There are many localities in our cities where this stately poplar can be artistically planted, say as a

shade tree on a very narrow street, or when shade is needed in the upper windows of our tall office buildings, just as those on the south front of the Carnegie Library and apartment houses.

On the east front of one of our local millionaire's palatial homes, the trees and shrubbery bespeak the home of culture and refinement, while the trees on the west side seem to be designed to shade the big log hut of some poor man, and he too lazy to care for them. The surprising thing in this case is that both conditions have been produced without any design on the part of its occupants, able as they are to have both trees and shrubbery that will add more beauty and dignity to the appearance of their comfortable home.

I sincerely hope that the present commissioner of parks will not permit the parking between the Union Station and the Capitol building to be marred by crooked and deformed forest trees, but make it a beauty spot, the beauty and loveliness of which will not be surpassed on the continent, and yet not hide any of the fine buildings now in view.

That portion of the plaza lying between the Union Station and the Capitol Building can be greatly improved by selecting one or more of the largest squares—one of which should be in front of the Senate Office Building and the other near the station—and convert them into lakes, amply supplied with fish and swan, and their edges planted with such semi-aquatic plants and trees as will make the best show, while some of the smaller spaces should be used for the display of an almost innumerable variety of spraying and spouting fountains, and, when possible, glass tubes should be employed so as to hide or keep secret, by their invisibility, the source of the water's many ~~trivoltous~~ forms, etc. Glass bowls, many feet across, of the same whiteness as the water which overflows its edge, then sprays from invisible or colored glass tubes should be used to puzzle visiting friends, and ~~should~~ interest alike old and young. The surface of all the land should be closely sodded by blue grass, because of its richer color, and this should be duplicated on the White House lawn. Colored glass dams and tubes can be made to vary this scene of beauty; indeed, fancy should here be set free to do her most gorgeous work, and that in the best manner, for the cost can never equal, much less surpass, the refining effect that such a scene will have for the inspiration of a dull comprehension, much less when viewed by a soul hungering for visions of loveliness. To-day this space, with its fringe of deformed trees and ugly red clay, only reminds one of a widow's field, and she too poor to care for it. Shame on a rich Government that will permit such a desert waste of red and yellow clay spots, where only beauty and loveliness, if not grandeur of scenery, can and should be displayed in a most ravishing manner.

The beautifying of our mid-city parks in this and the many other ways that an educated fancy may dictate, will do more toward a permanent uplift of inspiring souls than all other efforts combined can do, besides

chasing gloom and sadness from downcast souls and hearts hardened by the irony of fate. Beautiful pictures, when wrought in nature, are far more inspiring than any that the artist's brush can spread upon canvass, so let us have them for all the cities upon this continent. Washington should be the most beautiful and inspiring to man, if not the end of human effort in this direction. Water, trees, fruits, flowers, rocks, hills, gorges, brooks, and vales were given to man by God to weave into things of beauty about our cities and homes, for the purpose of ennobling and uplifting his soul, so as to make it easier for him to worship Him who made all things. Read the description of the Garden of Eden; brief as it is, a whole volume filled with photographs and elaborately worded could not do adequate justice to its beauty. "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put man whom He had formed." "And out of the ground made the Lord to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food." \* \* \* "And a river went out of Eden to water the garden." Without question, no man can make a garden as beautiful as God can, and did make in Eden; but this is no reason why the American people should be content with the present coarse arrangement of the flora and water distribution we have in this, the National Capital. Let us do our best to imitate the garden God planted for man, "eastward in Eden," and maybe we may become more like the man God would have us be. The savage is content to live amidst unkept surroundings, and shall we? If we would make our boast good, that we are a Christian, civilized people, then we should make our city the most attractive in America. A veritable garden of trees, fruits, flowers, water so highly arranged that all men will exclaim, What a beautiful city Washington is.

Sir, do you live in or near the National Capitol, and have you a refined taste, and are you a lover of the beautiful? Then so stamp this fact around your dwelling that the stranger, as well as your intimates, will intuitively stop and exclaim, Here lives one gentleman, of refined tastes, possessing a soul easily stirred by Nature's beautiful designs when gorgeously arranged in tasty order. Do not be content with stone and brick for ~~an~~ home; these will do for a house; but a home cannot be made without a display of nature's best and most attractive flora, artistically arranged about the building into a veritable poem of trees, shrubbery, vines, flowers, and water. These are nature's royal gifts to man for home building, and should be used to the best advantage.

The average American comes to Washington for inspiration. Do not disappoint him any longer. Give him beauty spots at the White House, around the Capitol building, at Union Station, in the Smithsonian grounds, that will make him an interesting entertainer to his children and neighbors, the rest of his life about the beauty of the National Capital and its many private homes, so elegantly and artistically beautified, thus stamping Washington as the capital of a cultured people, whose superior refinement surpasses that of all other people.



Baltimore Sun of September 3 has this say of Gardens:  
GARDENS.

By the Bentztown Bard.

All gardens are God's gardens;  
Soon or later

His hand comes by to open wide the gate  
That he may sanction with His utter grace  
Each vine and flower

That decks the lovely place!

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