

BEAUTIFUL HOMES.

Do you want to be rich? If so, how would you spend your money? You might do as the rich man does. In his case, when he counts up his hundreds of thousands or millions, he goes out into the country and buys a piece of land, and then plants it for a summer home. C. H. Tenny, a New York millionaire, plunges into business in the great city, and then comes out to rest at his beautiful estate at Methuen, Mass. He has a fine house, with every comfort on his splendid grounds. But by far the richest and choicest things are his trees. He has a Scotch gardener, who has the soul of beauty, and has no patience with sham. Said he: "there came a lot of well-dressed fools along here one day, and they 'ohed' and 'ahed' over the house and barns, and never noticed these trees, some of the finest in the world. They were a set of donkeys." The cities said: "We are full of finer houses, mansions and palaces, but nowhere are finer trees." There were specimens there that hundreds of dollars could not buy. Finest among them were the silver spruces and firs of the Rockies. It seemed like home to be among them again. I noticed that superior care and high cultivation had given them far greater beauty than in their own mountain homes. The silver sheen flashed brighter, the needles were longer, and they had more of thrift and grace.

Are They Expensive?

Would these choice trees do well here? Yes. Are they very expensive? I have known \$100 to be refused for one in Illinois, and I have sent some to Massachusetts which sold at from \$10 to \$15. They cost here from twenty five cents to \$1.00. This is like sowing dimes and harvesting eagles.

There are choice shrubs on this estate. They cost but little at first, twenty-five cents to \$1.00 each, but priceless when in a glory of bloom.

There is a large and beautiful family of syringas, which do well in Nebraska. There are at least a dozen kinds of honeysuckles, and as many more of hardy spireas, which can be depended upon.

A Large Family of Peonies.

And then there is a large and growing family of peonies. I have a friend in Massachusetts who had 60,000 of them, some of the common kinds and some very choice ones that he imported from Europe, some for which he paid as high as \$3.00 apiece. Year after year he took the premium at the great Boston show. A rich man from Illinois heard of them, and sent his gardener to see them. "What will you take for the entire lot?" "\$7,000" was the answer, and the bargain was closed on the spot. A letter from the largest nursery in Illinois informs me that a collection nearly

as large was sold at a fabulous price, to go East.

I have a collection of about thirty kinds, secured from various sources. I invite you to see them in bloom next summer. Some of mine cost a dollar each. What can be more interesting than large beds of these charming flowers? Among them are early and late bloomers, prolonging the season for six weeks.

Peonies need rich cultivation, plenty of manure, the hoe, water or good mulching, and often transplanting. "Why don't my peonies bloom? I never have any success with them." Perhaps you have put them in grass and neglected them. Perhaps they are under trees, and robbed of the moisture which belongs to them, or they may not have been transplanted for years. This fall I transplanted some which had been under all these adverse conditions for twenty years. They had not bloomed for five years, and I didn't blame them. In the spring they would form buds, but absolutely had no strength to push them out into bloom.

The Columbine Does Well Here.

Another perennial flower of great merit, which does well here is the columbine. There are about thirty-two kinds of this species, and as they have a tendency to cross or hybridize, we shall have many other varieties. The Rocky Mountain early red is very attractive, a free bloomer, and continues in bloom a month. It is among our earliest flowers. I had them blooming this spring, though they had been set out but a few weeks. The queen among the columbines, if not the queen among flowers, is the coerulea, from the high altitudes of the Rockies. It is snowy white and sky blue, the colors very clear and distinct. These do well in our climate, and many came to see them in bloom. They vary somewhat in size and color. They are much used now in crossing with other varieties, and some beautiful specimens have been the result. This is the state flower of Colorado, and there is in Boston a columbine association, which is making a most persistent effort to have it adopted as a national flower. There is a great advantage of perennials over annuals. The former are already planted and prepared for business. They are less affected by the drouth, being much better rooted. And the whole race from peony to columbine will be but little affected, except for present blooming, by the most destructive hail storms. Another perennial of recent introduction is the oriental poppy. All the other families are annuals. This is a large and brilliant bloomer, in fact so bright that when the sun is shining it dazzles the eye. In color it is flaming crimson.

New Kinds of Phloxes.

Then we have the newer kinds of phloxes, far preferable to the old. They

have a rich and gorgeous variety of color, and they continue a long time in bloom. They are better massed. Then you have the various colors, deep red, crimson and snowy white. I secured some of the finest foreign sorts, which I feared might sunburn, but they went through our siroccos, which blew like a blast of death at 106° in the shade, and they never winced under it. So we are assured of this magnificent addition to our floral treasures. This, like the peony, is a perennial, and will go four or five years without transplanting.

The Famous Hydrangea.

Then for full effect, to go along with the phloxes, we have the famous hydrangea, which will produce more bloom for its size than any other plant on earth. We need to know how to treat this shrub. It wants rich ground, plenty of water, and good cultivation. In the fall, to make sure that it will not winter kill, if in an exposed situation, cut it down to the ground and cover the stump with six inches of earth, which you may rake off in the spring, and put plenty of manure around it.

Marvellous Improvements in Lilacs.

What marvellous improvements have been made in lilacs! First, the old sprouting kinds—the purple and white. Then come the Persian, three kinds, white, purple and dark purple. These do not sprout, and now that horticulture has hunted the earth over, we have 125 kinds, extending the period of bloom from early spring till July. Some of these kinds, like the old ones, have a tendency to sprout, but this is obviated by grafting them on the roots of the tree lilac. The rear of this whole beautiful procession is brought up by the two giant lilacs of China and Japan, which are the latest to bloom. Through the month of June they are clothed with great spikes of snowy white flowers, which peer out of their coverts of green. These are trees. They grow from six to twelve inches through, and are from thirty to fifty feet high. Some of these bloomed in York last summer, though set out in the spring. Each kind is a fine ornamental tree, aside from its flowers. They do well in Nebraska. At Franklin the Chinese lilacs stood four years of awful drouth amid neglect and weeds, and grew and bloomed through it all.

Must Have Care.

Now, does the farmer want to be rich? With \$100 with his rich land he can duplicate the grounds of many a millionaire. You have better land than they have, to begin with. If a rich man, East, could secure ten or forty acres, such as you own, there would be a pilgrimage for miles to see it. And many of the trees and shrubs which he raises would thrive well under your care, only they must have care. It is the everlasting weed which is the deadly enemy