

PIGMY TREES AND MINIATURE LANDSCAPES.

In some ways the Chinese and Japanese gardeners are the most successful of any in the world. They can control and direct the growth of plants to a degree that seems really marvellous until the principle upon which it is done is known.

The Chinese have such a strong liking for the grotesque, and unnatural, that the handiwork of their gardeners is not so pleasing as that of the Japanese gardeners. The Chinese understand dwarfing of trees; but their best work is in so directing the growth of a tree or plant that it will resemble some hideous animal which is only fit to exist in a nightmare.

Japanese, on the contrary, are remarkable for their love of what is beautiful and graceful, and, consequently, ugly forms find no favor with them. Every Japanese has a garden if it be possible; but, as space is valuable in Japan, only the very rich can have large grounds, and the family in moderate circumstances must be content with a garden often smaller in area than the floor of one of our hall bed-rooms in a narrow, city house.

Nevertheless, that small garden must contain as many objects as the large garden, and, of course, the only way of accomplishing the desired result is to have everything in miniature. It is no uncommon thing to see a whole landscape contained in a space no greater than the top of your dining-table. There will be a mountain, a stream, a lake, rocky grottoes, winding paths, bridges, lawns, fruit trees, shrubs and flowers; all so artistically laid out as to resemble nature itself. In the lake will swim wonderful, filmy-finned gold and silver fish, and not infrequently the tall form of a crane will be seen moving majestically about the tiny landscape.

This seems wonderful enough; but what will you think when I say that almost the same landscape is reproduced on so small a scale that the two pages of St. Nicholas, as it lies open before you, can cover it! In this case, a tiny house is added; delicate green moss takes the place of grass, and glass covers the lake where the water should be. Counterfeit fish swim in the glass lake, and a false crane overlooks the whole scene, just as the real crane does the larger landscape. The mountain, winding walks, bridges, and rocky grottoes are in the little landscape; and real trees, bearing fruit, or covered with dainty blossoms, are in their proper places.

These trees are of the right proportions to fit the landscape, and they are, consequently, so tiny that one is tempted to doubt their reality; and more than one stranger has slyly taken the leaves or fruit between the fingers, in order to make sure that the dwarfs do truly live, and are not, like the fish and crane, mere counterfeits. These miniature landscapes have been successfully brought to this country; and on one occasion a lady of San Francisco used one of them as a center-piece on the table at a dinner-party, greatly to the wonder and admiration of her guests, who would scarcely be convinced that the almost microscopic apples on the trees were genuine fruit.

And now comes the question—how is the dwarfing done? The principle is simple. The gardener merely thwarts nature. He knows that, to grow properly, a tree requires sunlight, heat, moisture, and nourishment from the soil. He takes measures to let the tree have only just enough of these to enable it to keep alive.

To begin, he takes a little seedling, or cutting, about two inches high, and cuts off its main root. He then puts the plant in a shallow dish, with the cut end of the root resting against a stone, to retard its growth by preventing nourishment entering that way. Bits of clay the size of a bean are put in the dish, and are so regulated in kind and quantity as to afford the least possible food for the little rootlets which have been left on the poor little tree. Water, heat and light are furnished the struggling plant in just sufficient quantities to hold life in it without giving it enough to thrive on. In addition, any ambitious attempt to thrive, in spite of these drawbacks, is checked by clipping with a sharp knife, or searing with a read-hot iron.

After from five to fifteen years of such treatment, the only wonder is that the abused tree will consent even to live, to say nothing of bearing fruit.—John R. Coyell, in the February St. Nicholas.

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Carriage Company!

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING LEASED THE RIGHT to occupy the

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Will, in future, place a sufficient number of Carriages on said stand to meet the requirements of the

HOTEL GUESTS.

HAWAIIAN HOTEL CARRIAGE CO. Honolulu, May 1, 1884. 704 1m

NOTICE.

FROM AND AFTER THIS DATE, No Licensed Hacks

will be permitted to occupy the

STAND

in the front or rear of the

Hawaiian Hotel,

Without written permission from the Manager of said Hotel.

All hacks violating this rule, especially after 10 o'clock, will be prosecuted

GEO. H. FASSETT, Manager. Honolulu, May 1, 1884. 704 1m

DAILY BULLETIN Business Directory

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