Gleanings in old garden literature

Hazlitt William Carew
Title: Gleanings in old garden literature

Author: Hazlitt William Carew

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GLEANINGS
IN
OLD GARDEN LITERATURE.

I.
PRELIMINARIES.

MRS. MATTHEWS, in her Memoirs of her husband, 1839, mentions the gratification which it afforded Coleridge, when he came from the Gilmans', to visit them at Highgate Hill, to walk round the garden and gather a handful of flowers to take home with him.

We know how some of the wisest and best of mankind have delighted in gardens. Even such an inveterate Londoner as Charles Lamb, when he went down to live at Edmonton, took a pleasure in superintending the
small plot of ground behind his house there, and watched with interest the progress toward maturity of his Windsor pears and jargonelles.

How affectionately attached to their gardens and the pursuits connected with the culture of trees, fruits, and flowers Bacon, Evelyn, Temple, Walpole, and other eminent Englishmen have been, it will form part of my duty in the following pages to demonstrate.

General Lambert, who was lord of the manor of Wimbledon in 1656, was very fond of his garden at that place, and grew, it is said, the finest tulips and gilliflowers procurable. It is to his passion for this pursuit that he owed his place on a pack of satirical cards published during the Commonwealth, where the Eight of Hearts bears a small full-length of him, holding a tulip in his right hand, with “Lambert Kt. of y° Golden Tulip” beneath. He had withdrawn into what was then the country from political life; but, amid his recreations as a florist, was doubtless watching the opportunity for a return to the field