

**THE RIVERSIDE ALDINE
SERIES; MY SUMMER
IN A GARDEN**

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The Riverside Aldine Series; My summer in a garden by Charles Dudley Warner

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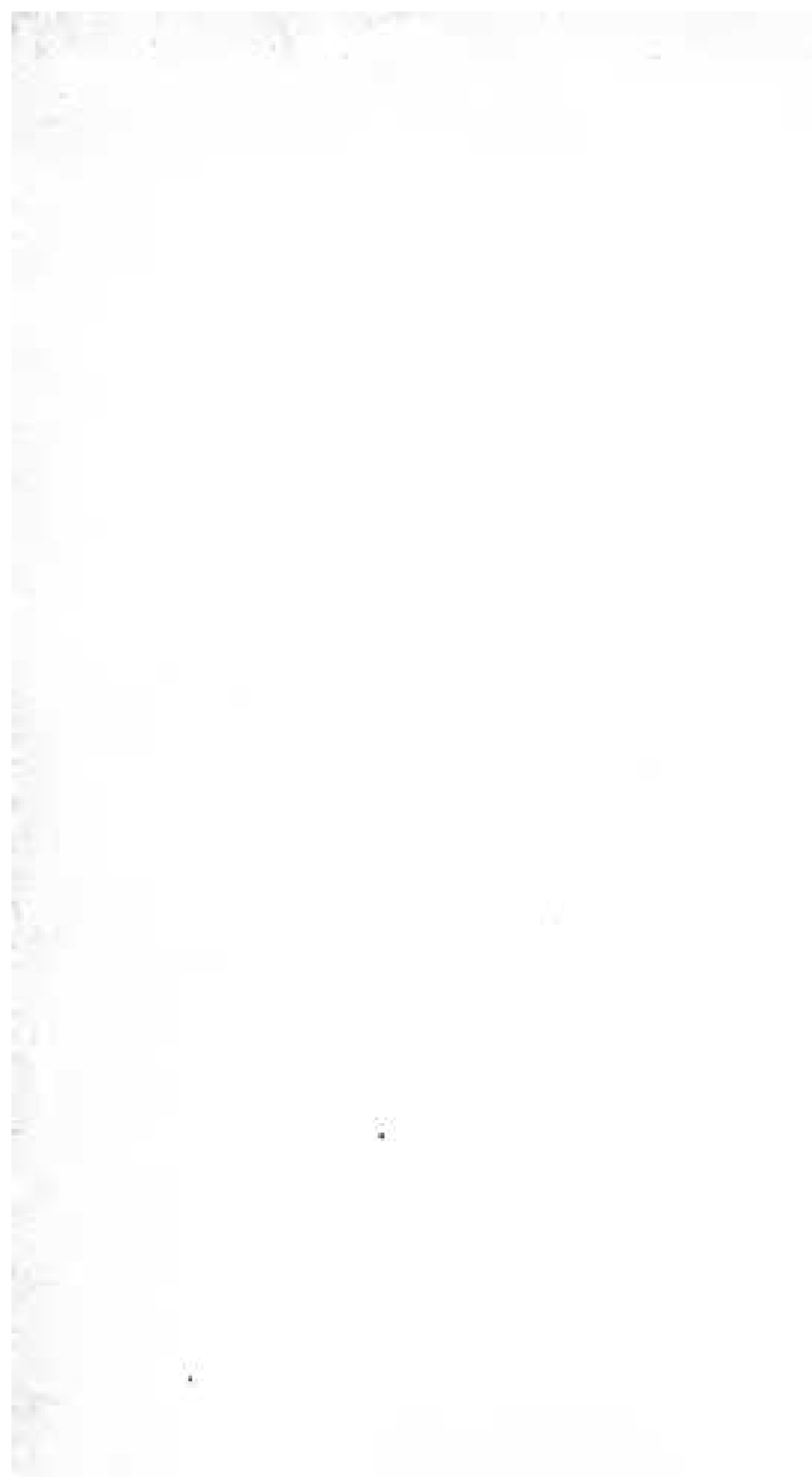
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The Riverside Albine Series

MY SUMMER IN A GARDEN

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BY

CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER



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BY WAY OF DEDICATION.

MY DEAR POLLY, — When a few of these papers had appeared in "The Courant," I was encouraged to continue them by hearing that they had at least one reader who read them with the serious mind from which alone profit is to be expected. It was a maiden lady, who, I am sure, was no more to blame for her singleness than for her age; and she looked to these honest sketches of experience for that aid which the professional agricultural papers could not give in the management of the little bit of garden which she called her own. She may have been my only disciple; and I confess that the thought of her yielding a simple faith to what a gain-saying world may have regarded with levity has contributed much to give an increased practical turn to my reports of what I know

about gardening. The thought that I had misled a lady whose age is not her only singularity, who looked to me for advice which should be not at all the fanciful product of the Garden of Gull, would give me great pain. I trust that her autumn is a peaceful one, and undisturbed by either the humorous or the satirical side of Nature.

You know that this attempt to tell the truth about one of the most fascinating occupations in the world has not been without its dangers. I have received anonymous letters. Some of them were murderously spelled; others were missives in such elegant phrase and dress, that danger was only to be apprehended in them by one skilled in the mysteries of mediæval poisoning, when death flew on the wings of a perfume. One lady, whose entreaty that I should pause had something of command in it, wrote that my strictures on "pusley" had so inflamed her husband's zeal, that, in her absence in the country, he had rooted up all her beds of portulaca (a sort of cousin of the fat weed),