

**OF GARDENS:
AN ESSAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649248513

Of Gardens: An Essay by Francis Bacon

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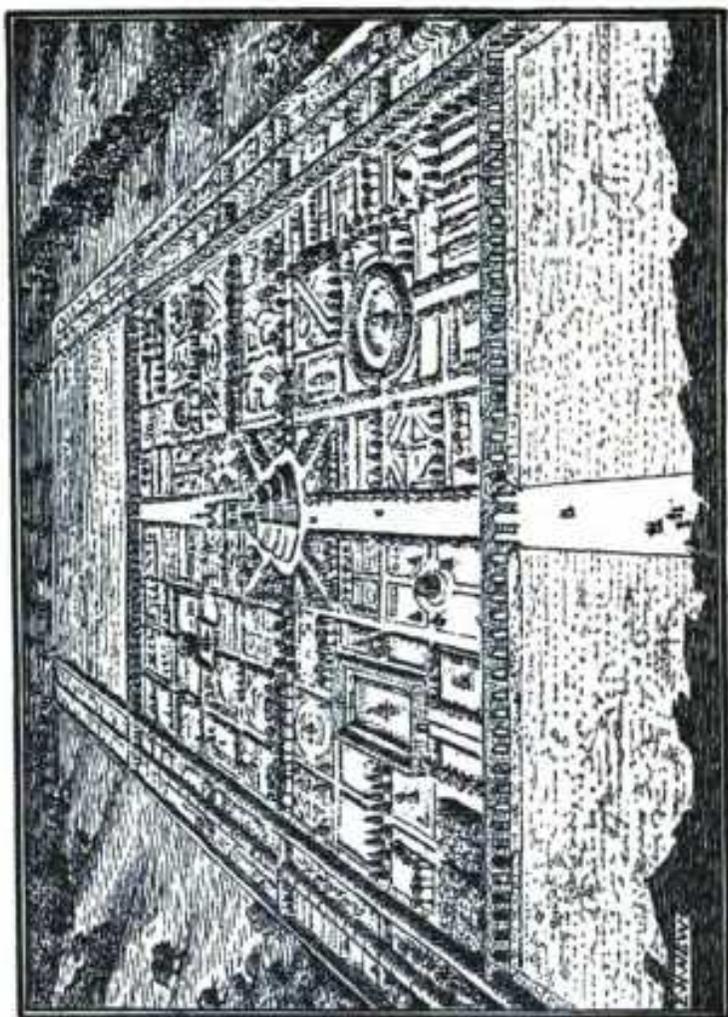
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FRANCIS BACON

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Of
GARDENS
An Essay

By
Francis Bacon
With *Introduction* by HELEN MILMAN
and *Frontispiece* and *Cover Design* by
EDMUND H. NEW

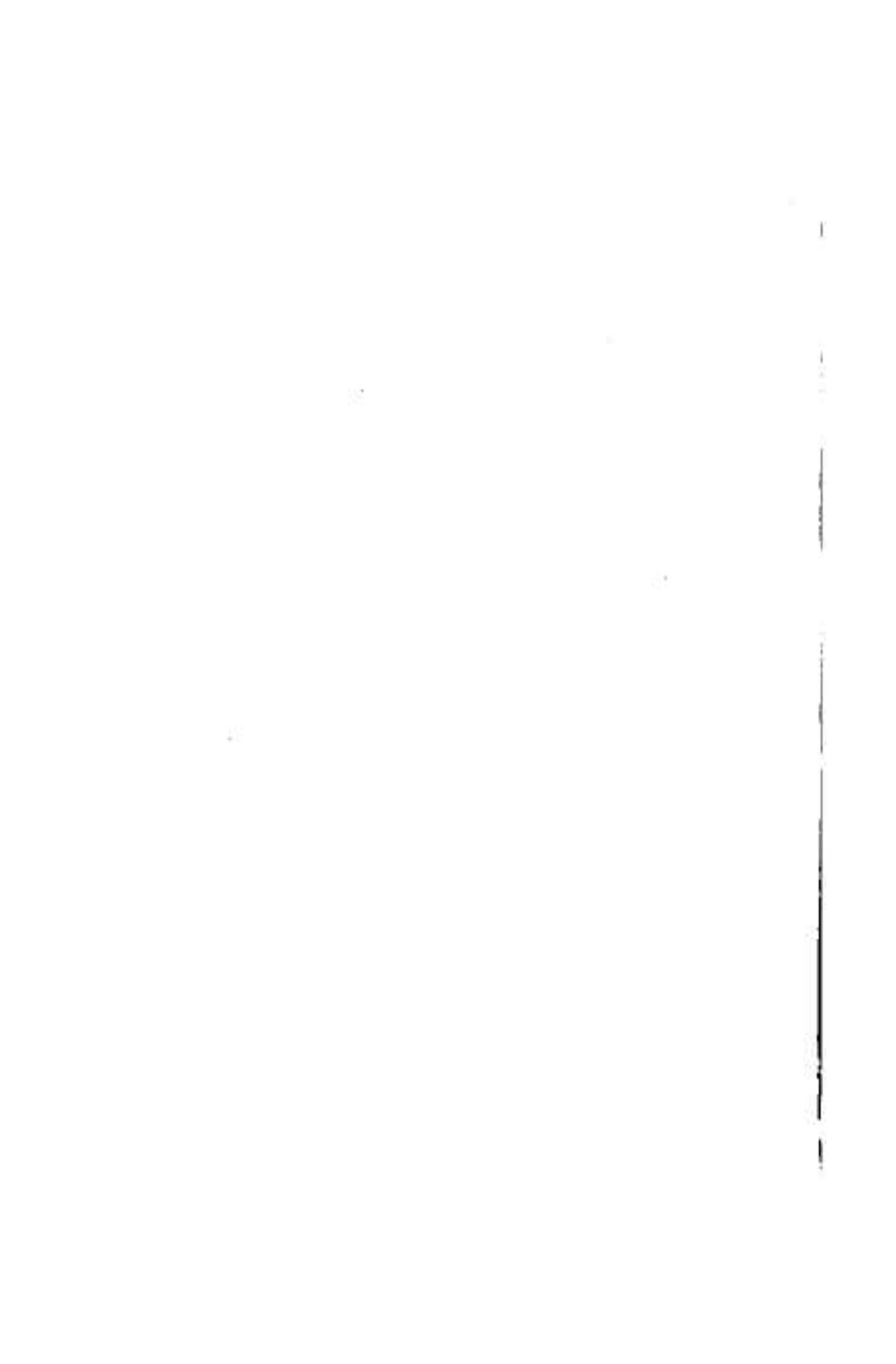


John Lane
LONDON & NEW YORK
MDOCCII

D. B. UPDIKE, THE MERRYMOUNT PRESS, BOSTON

1928

Of Gardens



Introduction

"Any garden whatsoever is but Nature idealised."

BACON wrote an ideal garden sketch which we as a nation treasure in our store-house of literary gems. It comes after the Essay "Of Building," and is the prince's garden to the prince's palace which he reared with such consummate art. A lover, longing to beautify a bare patch, turns with a sigh from the rapturous picture of thirty acres laid out and planted with no thought of cost; but the last words of the essay bring sweet comfort even to one who revels in the peace and beauty of an acre, for one acre where love

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grows with the flowers can contain a whole world.

Month by month Bacon plants for you his garden and tells of flowers and trees which blossom in his ideal spot. We, too, to-day have "Roses of all kinds" and all the flowers he boasts of, but had he been more of a true gardener and less of an ideal literary genius, he could have gathered together a sweeter story of a year. Mr. W. Aldis Wright tells us in a note that in two copies of the Edition of 1625 the following sentence is substituted for the words at the end of his season's calendar. "Thus, if you will, you may have the Golden Age againe, and a Spring all the Yeare long." The Golden