

Black Cherry (Ethel).—With our beautiful blossoms we need not be envious of the orange groves of California. I am one large snowball of blossoms in the spring. My fruit is much liked by the birds, and my wood is fine, light, durable and looks much like mahogany. My cousins are the wild plum, crab-apple, mountain ash, hawthorn, Juneberry, spiræa, the apple, pear, quince, and the peach, and we all belong to the Rose family.

Black Walnut (Frank).—I am not ornamental, nor am I a good neighbor, for I sometimes poison other trees that live near me. In spite of my bad qualities I am liked because I can be converted into cash at any moment. Some of my brothers have sold as high as \$2,000. Those who care for us care for a fortune. My relative, the Butternut, is much loved by boys and girls. It was round my brother at Haverstraw, on the Hudson, that Gen. Wayne mustered his forces at midnight, preparatory to his attack on Stony Point.

Hickory (Ray).—There are four brothers of us in Michigan, but I am the least worthy of them all, and am the only one present at this convention. We are cousins of the Walnut and Butternut and all belong to the Walnut family. If you want a wood that is good for buggies, axe handles, barrel hoops, a wood like iron, call upon my brother, the Shag-bark. You will have all the nuts you want thrown into the bargain. Once upon a time there was a president of the country who had so many of my qualities that they called him Old Hickory.

White Oak.—We will sing about the "echo which in the forest dwells."

White Oak.—We will next hear a few words from the Ashes. (Three rise and stand till all are through.)

White Ash (Myrtie).—I am a tall tree and have often been complimented for my usefulness. I have been told that I have a graceful top and beautiful pinnate leaves. My wood is heavy, hard, strong, coarse-grained, compact, and of a brown color, and is much used for cabinet ware, farm implements, and house finishing. I thrive on rich, moist soil.

Blue Ash (Amy).—I am not often found in Michigan. I grow slowly and attain a good size. My wood is valuable for lumber, posts and sills. I may be distinguished from all other Ashes by the square branches of a year's growth.

Black Ash (Ella).—I thrive in swamps and along streams, and become a large, useful tree. My wood is used for furniture, barrel hoops and baskets. When well cared for I become one of the finest ornamental trees. For this purpose I have never been fully appreciated. The Ashes belong to the Olive family. We have been called musical, as in this quotation :

"Ye Ashes wild resounding o'er the steep,
Delicious is your music to the soul."

White Oak.—Who will speak next? (A number rise.) Birch has the floor.

Birch (William).—I am a useful factor in the cause of education, though not now so commonly found in the school room as in former years. There are five sisters of us Birches in Michigan. The Alders are our cousins. Probably you are best acquainted with the Canoe Birch, whose white wood you see in spools and shoe pegs. It gives up its beautiful white dress without any injury to itself. Longfellow has made us a celebrated family in *Hiawatha*. He says of us :

"Give me your bark, O, Birch tree !
Of your yellow bark, O, Birch tree !
Growing by the rushing river,
Tall and stately in the valley !
I a light canoe will build me,
That shall float upon the river,
Like a yellow leaf in autumn,
Like a yellow water lily !
Lay aside your cloak, O, Birch tree !
Lay aside your white skin wrapper,
For the summer time is coming,
And the sun is warm in heaven,
And you need no white skin wrapper."