

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

The Cottonwood Tree.

EDITOR RESOURCES. We notice in THE RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, published by you, dated 1st March, you speak of a "Cottonwood" which grows very extensively in the country, and which is suitable for paper making. We will be obliged if you will give us some information about this. We expect to have a vessel shortly loading a cargo of timber at Burrard Inlet for this country, and we would like to bring a few tons in her as a trial if it will answer for paper making in this country. You are no doubt

aware there is a large quantity of Esparto grass imported from the Mediterranean for this purpose, and it has struck us from your description that the Cottonwood might be used as a substitute. Will you please inform us whether it could be got in quantity, and whether it can easily be got to a port of shipment, also if you have any idea what it would cost per ton delivered at a port of shipment?

Please also say if it is a plant peculiar to British Columbia, or the Pacific Coast.

Do you mean that the whole of the plant is suitable for this purpose or only a description of cotton that grows on it? Can you give us the botanical name of the plant? If you think there is any chance of the wood being of value here, we will be much obliged if you will send us by parcel post a few pounds of the wood so that we can have it examined here, provided the cost will not exceed \$5 or \$6, including the carriage here. Messrs. Welch, Rithet & Co. will reimburse you any outlay for this on our account. We have already asked these gentlemen to subscribe for us to the RESOURCES. We are Yours truly,

JOHN S. DE WOLF & Co.
1, Tower Chambers, Liverpool, 23rd May, 1883.

[This large tree is known here as Fremont's Cottonwood, or by the botanic name, *Populus Fremontii*. It is found all over the Pacific Coast and also east of the Rocky Mountains. Flourishes in rich light alluvial soil, near river banks or where its roots may reach

water, and attains to 150 feet in height and from four to six feet in diameter. The bead-like cotton pods are arranged on nodding or erect racemes, seeds white, capsules three to four valved. The timber is somewhat less white than the Aspen which is extensively used in the Eastern States for the manufacture of paper, and when thoroughly dry loses more than half its weight. All sorts of wooden vessels, clothespins, spools and similar turners' ware are made of it, but it has heretofore been regarded as one of our least valuable kinds of wood. However the despised Cottonwood may yet become the most popular as well as the most valuable tree. Late inventions and discoveries

have revealed the fact that the finest polish and strongest household furniture can be made out of paper. It can be pressed so hard that no instrument short of a diamond can scratch it, and it can be given the finest shades in imitation of wood, and produced cheaper than walnut, mahogany or ebony. And late discoveries in paper making establish the fact that Cottonwood makes the whitest and strongest fiber pulp yet manufactured out of wood. There are



STRIKE IT RICH.

vast quantities of pulp imported into the United States, and some newspaper men are clamoring for its admission free of duty. Paper mills in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and other Northern States, are shipping thousands of cords of poplar wood from the Chowan river in North Carolina, one mill in Delaware contracting for 30,000 cords.

Here Cottonwood is abundant, and as its habitat is in the vicinity of the inlets, lakes and rivers, it is therefore very convenient for shipment. By improved methods, and machinery recently invented, it can be ground into pulp, and manufactured into paper with astonishing rapidity; and it has been demonstrated by actual experiment, that a growing tree of this wood may be cut down, reduced to pulp, pressed into sheets of the desired size and a newspaper printed upon it, all within twenty-four hours. In view of these facts, there would seem to be no need for further tests as to the practicability of making cheap and excellent paper from the Cottonwood tree. E.V.]