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The Lineage of British Trees



OR many centuries the soft and tem-perate climate of these islands has provided a congenial home for many kinds of trees which did not form part of the original native vegetation of a tract of land so remote and outlying in position. Parks and gardens, especially in the warm southwest, can be seen stocked with species from far distant and more southerly

from far distant and more southerly latitudes; and continued experiments in accimatization almost annually enrich a new corner of English soil with trees beautiful or curious to the eye, or of possible economic value. Most of the species thus introduced, even those of old standing and free and hardy growth, retain clear traces of their exotic origin in the way in which, though common for generation after generation even in rudely-tended cottage gardens, they refuse to spread beyond the limits of the sheltered pale or to merge themselves in the general dens, they refuse to spread beyond the limits of the sheltered pale or to merge themselves in the general vegetation of the countryside. The lilac, for example, has never strayed into the open woods, under the care of Nature alone. The laburnum in this country is never seen lining the long gash of the hillside torrent with downpoured gold, as it delights the eye in its home among the spruce forests in the Alps of the Valais and Savoy. On English ground the acacia does not run wild in sorubby thickets outside, though near to, the margin of tended soil, as it does no further away from us than in Northern France or Belgium. But belind these obtiously species there stands another group of actimatized trees and shrubs, containing many kinds which we consider as among the most typical natural objects in English scenery; and these, although no less

lish scenery; and these, although no less exotic in origin, have spread far and wide amongst the species native to the land, and have obtained so firm and assured a footing that few persons ever think of them as being other than native British trees. There is something very fasoniarting in surveying any familiar tract of well-wooded English landscape on a day in autumn when the changes in the foliage draw all eyes to the trees, and in distinguishing between such kinds as are age-old dwellers on the soil and those others which, though of very ancient English lineage, were not always present in these scenes. Foremost among the naturalized spe-

cies which have been absorbed into the inmost character of English landscape is the common elm. Though it is difficult to gain certain evidence on a point so distant in date, the elm is supposed to have been introduced by the Romans, have been introduced by the Romans, who began the long process of acclimatizing foreign trees and plants in Britain which has lasted to the present day. Not even the oak itself is now so deeply characteristic of many lovely and familiar landscapes of Southern England as the lofty and noble elm, with the crowding fulness of its rounded upper foliage standing into the sky like the canyas of full-rigged ship under sail or the cona full-rigged ship under sail, or the con-tours of a white May cloud. From its characteristic habit of growth, the elm is supremely fitted to be the typical tree of such a country of hedgerows as Eng-land; for it demands just that measure of space and freedom about it which a of space and freedom about it which a position in a hedgerow gives, and will tolerate crowding far less readily than the oak or beech. There is hardly such a thing as a wood of elms. It is well known how the elm is absent in the more northern parts of the country, its place there being partly taken by the genuinely native wych-elm, which is also general in the south. But it is highly remarkable that in all the centuries since it became a British tree the common elm has never) succeeded in extending its It became a British tree the common elm has never) succeeded in extending its range more widely through the island. It still seems to cling to those southern and eastern parts of the country where the Roman power held strongest and longest hold; while, as the traveler goes north today by rail, it is very noticeable how elms suddenly vanish from their conspicuous place in every hedgerow as the

spicious place in every nedgerow as the train approaches the historical boundary of the Trent.

No revolutionary botanist has yet arisen to declare that the oak is not a true British tree, but doubts have been seriously cast upon the claim to a place in the native list of a species only one degree less familiar among our forest trees of the first order—the beech. It seems highly improbable, however, that the beech is actually an alien. much more widely distributed over Britain than the elm, and there is the strongest presumption, on both historical and natural grounds, that the large tracts of beech forest which have clothed the Chil tern Hills and many other upland districts for time out of mind are the remains of primeval woodland. From the commonness of the place-name Buckholt or Buckhold (which is simply beech wood in another shape), and similar local wood in another shape), and similar local forms, it is clear that woods of beech formed one of the most conspicuous elements in English scenery at the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasions. It seems impossible for the tree to have become so plentiful at that early date if it had been merely a naturalized species. One of the strongest inducements for the acclimatization of an alien species of tree is its value for purposes of food; but the edible of beech-mast are even in the most favoral

of beech-mast are even in the most favorable years scarcely high enough to make it likely to have been scarcely high enough to make it likely to have been introduced for this reason by Roman epicures, or even by any of the dim, successive waves of immigrant population in pre-historic times. There seems little doubt that the dark woods of unmixed and close-growing beeches which cover many slopes of our chalk and limestone hills present one of the completest pictures of primeval England which survive to the present day. Here life has been unchanged vive to the present day. Here life has been unchanging and continuous; the few flowers and scanty verdure which grow beneath the beeches infertile shadow are the same as were plucked by the pit-dwellers wild-eyed young. Only the forms and voices of the larger birds and beasts of prey are lacking to give the woods the same character in all respects as they possessed so many ages ago.

In few other types of English woodland has there In few other types of English woodland has there been, however, the same complete absence of change either in the prevailing species, of tree or in the fashion of its growth. In order to reconstitute the primeval picture of most wooded landscapes we have to allow for very many deductions, additions, and alterations of distribution and habit. There are many woods in all parts of the country which are altogether artificial, in the sense that the trees of which they are composed are neither native to the soil nor required as they would grow if removed from this they are composed are listent lative to the soli hor growing as they would grow if removed from this forced juxtaposition. It by no means follows that woods of this mixed character are unpleasing in themselves, or inharmonious elements in an English landscape. A woodland of mixed conifers and deciduous trees is often singularly pleasing to the eye, and full of the grace of a nature of second growth In all the southern parts of England coniferous tree of every kind are aliens by extraction. The Scotch seems never to have been a native species south of the Cheviot moors; while the spruce and larch, now everywhere so familiar, are among the most modern additions to our common woodland trees. The sweet chestnut tree, on the other hand, which

often grows freely both in copses and larger wood-lands, especially in the southeastern counties, is one of the most ancient of our naturalized species. Very probably it was added to the number of the food-bearing trees of Britain by the Romans, since in Italy from the earliest times the chestnut held an important place among the means of subsistance. It was also much valued by English builders for the was also much valued by English builders for the excellence of its timber; and the beams in many ancient houses are made of chestnut wood, which is scarcely, if at all, inferior to oak in durability, and hardly distinguishable from its color and grain. The horse chestnut tree, on the other hand, which was introduced many centuries later, offers its sole attraction to the eye; its timber is valueless, and its fruit unestable. A fevorite tree, which is fruit uneatable. A favorite tree, which is some-times claimed as a native, but which is probably antimes claimed as a native, but which is probably another early introduction, is the lime. It has been said to grow wild in a certain wood in Worcestershire; but it is almost impossible to determine the native character of a species from its occurrence in a single locality, where it may easily have spread from a cultivated stock. The lime, moreover, is noticeably a tree which is rarely found growing in a perfectly wild situation, in woodlands far from the site of houses, or among the hollies and hazels of a natural brake or thicket. It seems habitually to cling to the near neighborhood of parks, gardens natural brake or thicket. It seems habitually to cling to the near neighborhood of parks, gardens, and the bordering fields where appearance, as well as utility, has been kept in view; and this absence of the lime from the untended thickets and copses presents a strong suggestion that it is a species which has never perfectly established itself beyond the range of the gardener's protective care. The plane is obviously a denizen of gardens; but the kindred sycamore has every appearance of being a native tree, and actually seems to prefer exposed or northern situations, flourishing in the steep valleys of moor-land countries where the elm is never seen. Yet the sycamore is an importation, and a comparatively

a place in English landscapes. Century by century many of the old, infertile species of the swamps and thorn-wastes have drawn back, giving place to the favorites of cultivation, and the offspring of more fruitful soils. Where the alder leaves once fickered over the sighing sedge crowns of the marsh, for league after league the cattle feed in a firm pasturage, and the filled earth bears corn and ruits for man. The birch and rowan have withdrawn to the scars and hillsides, and the dark juniper fiecks only the remotest and steepest faces of the southern downs. Yet even in the counties where traces of the ancient nature of the land are fewest, here and there we may come upon some of the southern towns.

where traces of the ancient nature of the land are fewest, here and there we may come upon some scattered hillside wood, or some remnant of gnarled thorn brake in a place where three tracks meet, and recognize that we are in face of a relic of antiquity which is older than any monument of man. Not only the wavefation before us all of the ancient kind, which is older than any monument of man. Not only is the vegetation before us all of the ancient kind, but it springs in the old, unordered way from a soil which has never before known the scythe or plow, or been stubbed, or drained, or dug. Hollies and hoary thorn trees will be there, or the stag-horned hoary thorn trees will be there, or the stag-horned oaks will moulder above the waist-deep bracken on the green. The unchanged habit of antiquity is visible in such places in every line; and between these pictures or primeval vegetation on English soil and the aspect of the young larch covert, set rank by rank, there is the history of innumerable centuries.—London Times,

In the Garden

One of the most skilful of rock garden-makers and planters of walls was the late Mr. Meyer, whose contributions on the subject to our contemporary, the Garden, we hope soon to publish. A correspondent wishes for information on the treatment of existing dry walls, and Mr. Meyer's advice is so sound and practical that we give it for the benefit of those

these holes for large plants at regular intervals, or still worse—in lines, but in such a way that the plants when in position would form an irregular and natural group. They should be sometimes close together, sometimes further apart, or scattered singly. For an example in Nature let us note a wall, say, in a shady country lane, which is bedecked with the luxuriant growth of hart's-tongue and other ferns, as well as all sorts of flowers. The remarks about the larger plants also apply to the small ones, except that these naturally should be placed closer together in irregular colonies merging into each other, but never in lines. When building a wall we do not pretend to imitate Nature, but so construct a plece of artificial work that no one could possibly mistake it for anything else than that of man. When, however, we adorn this wall with plants and flowers of various descriptions the planting should in all cases be natural, not in the selection of kinds, for that would mean decoration by wild flowers only, but in the disposition of the various groups follow Nature's lesson, arranging some in large irregular colonies, others in smaller groups, and others again singly, while some portions of the wall might be left bare altogether. To obtain good effects we must things scattered over the same space. It cannot

Planting an Existing Wall

the actual operation is more difficult than it would be if the planting were done as the wall is being built, because in the former case one is not quite sure that the soil is suitable, neither can the roots be spread out so easily. In many cases, therefore, we should have to be content with smaller plants: but, on the other hand, arranging them on a wall

singly, while some portions of the wall might be left bare altogether. To obtain good effects we must have bold misses of certain kinds, though it would be a mistake to let the chief aim in planting be to cram as many varieties of plants as possible into the space at disposal. A hundred plants of five or six kinds, in irregular natural groups, will be a thousand times more effective than a hundred different things seattened over the corrective transitions. denied that when

actually put in. When the arrangement of the sticks and twigs is complete, stand back and look at it. Probably one group is too regular and another too small, and it will be a trifling matter to readjust the sticks to our entire satisfaction; but it would not be so easy to rearrange matters once the things have been properly planted, neither would it be easy to judge of the effect by simply writing the names on labels or slips of paper and putting them into the wall. When a dry wall has been carefully planted and the plants have become established, it may be still thought desirable to increase the list by sowing seeds of annuals and perennials into some of the chinks and fissures and seeds of the still standard seeds of the still seed to be the seeds of the chinks and fissures and the seeds of the chinks and fissures are seeds. perennials into some of the chinks and fissures, or even some of the larger joints. Now is a good season to sow, and also in quite early spring, and also to plant seedlings.—Country Life.

Decorative Plants for Winter Use

The assertion that plants having variegated follows age have greater decorative powers than flowering plants, will, probably, brand the one who makes it as a heretic; but it is made after growing many plants of both classes.

Admitting all that can be claimed for the beauty of the blossoms of the one class, there yet remains the fact that very few plants are continuous bloomers, and their beauty is but for a season (frequently a very short one, while plants having beau-tifully variegated foliage have it, in almost every case, during the entire period of growth, whether in

> Among the ornamental-leaved plants are many rarely beautiful varieties, which never will become general favorites because of the special conditions re quired for their culture; but there are others so easily grown that any person may succeed with them, and it is for this latter class I make my plea.

In the vine family, we have the Jap anese honeysuckle, with its beautifully marked green-and-gold foliage, which be-comes almost entirely golden in color when grown in a position where it has plenty of direct sunlight. The leaves are variegated from the time the first one unfolds until the last one is killed by frost. The vine and roots need some light protection during the first winter, but after that it is hardy in any but the most extremely cold climates.

most extremely cold climates.

Another very desirable vine is the green-and-white Japanese hop, which is a self-sowing annual, and requires little care beyond a string to climb on. The growth is so very rapid that the vine makes a fine showing early in the sea-

The Japanese ivy is similar to the hop in colors and markings, but has a perennial root, which, like the honeysuckle, needs protection until well established. The more water the plant has the more white there is in the foliage, and in very strong sunlight there come both red and hue tints. The seed clusters are like tiny bunches of grapes, and are blue in color, giving an added beauty to the vine—if that is possible.

Any one of these vines makes a strikingly beautiful object when grown alone, and one mingling with the foliage of an all-green vine heightens the effectiveness to a degree which must be seen to be

The ordinary all-green tyy-leaved geranium is a beauty while it carries its trusses of pink, or white flowers; but the variegated sort, the leaves of which have white markings and margins which turn a deep rose-pink in strong sun-light, is beautiful all the time. The plant is adapted for use on a trells, or trailing from a basket or vase, and makes a remarkable show grown in either

The green-and-white and green-andgold vincas, and tradescantia, Repens tricolor (sometimes called Wandering Jew), are all plants which are naturally trailing in their habit of growth, and are very showy in baskets, vases

porch boxes.

The geranium family furnishes many varieties with beautifully marked foliage, from the dainty little Madam Saleroi, with its silvery green-and-white foliage up to the larger-growing sorts with brilliant tricolored leaves. The first named is usually grown as a border plant in the garden, or as a drooping plant in pots, while the others are used for specimen plants, in baskets and vases, as bedding plants, or wherever fine color effects are needed continu-

The old-time green-and-gold abutilons (flowering maples) were, and are, alto-gether desirable; but the newer green-and-white sorts are even more so, as they are as easily grown and much more showy because of their larger leaves. On the ones with which the writer has had experience, three-fourths of the leaves were more than half white, with uneven green markings, and a plant would fill an ordinary window when one world. an ordinary window when one year old. Begonias need no recommendation, as

every flower-lover knows how many beautifully colored leaves may be found among them, and all are particularly suited for window culture. The coleus has been termed "the gardener's paint-brush," and the vividly brilliant effects secured by its use make the term very appropriate. The effects secured by using the coleus as a bedding plant are too well known to need comment, but many labor under the mistaken idea that the plants are hardly worth while in the window-garden. It is true that the need the very strongest sunlight to keep the colors bright in the red and brown sorts, but those with green-and-gold leaves retain their beauty in any or-dinarily bright window.

During all of last winter, plants of this class were cept with others in my living room window, and the mimense, fluffy-edged leaves were as strongly variegated as any grown in the garden

For a low-growing, perfectly hardy decorative For a low-growing, perfectly hardy decorative plant which will thrive under almost any conditions, the Cicuta maculata is almost phenomenal. The leaves are silvery-green and cream-white in all sorts of combinations, and come directly from the root on a stem from four to six inches tall. For corners where nothing else will grow, along foundation walls, in solid masses on the open lawn, or wherever planted, it forms a dense mass of shimmering, silvery-looking foliage, which is pretty the entire season through.

No complete list could possibly be given; but any one who wants fine color effects throughout the season can find something suited to meet every demand, and that, too, among plants which the veriest ama teur can easily grow to perfection

through.

-Ryman Gaillard.

To soften paint brushes which have become hard, soak them in raw linseed oil for twenty-four hours, rinse in hot turpentine, and repeat the process, if necessary, until clean



DECORATIVE VALUE OF THE PERGOLA The above illustration shows an elaborate effect coupled with simplicity of construction. For a small garden, a pergola erected in an even simpler style would add greatly to the beauty of the home grounds.

late one; there is a tradition that it was introduced from France into Scotland in the time of Queen Mary, and that the first specimen seen in the country was planted in the garden of Holyrood Palace. Some confirmation may be found for this story in the fact that the sycamore is a characteristic northern species, and a favorite and conspicuous tree through all the hills and dales from Forth to Humber The affoldic swipripm in the product to Humber. The daffodils swinging in the orchard hedge are no surer a token of spring round many grey and lonely farm houses of the Pennine chain than the bursting of the green sycamore leaves by the gable window, on the soft April morning when all the flagged path is littered with the sheaths of the out-

Except the true aspen, all the British poplars are probably aliens by birth. The broad-topped black poplar, of the brittle boughs, is a wanderer of which no one seems with certainty to know the origin, though it has long been widely spread through many lands; while the tall rod-like Lombardy poplar is merely an artificial variety of the same species, first propagated beside the turbid water-courses of the great attivial plain of Northern Italy. The white poplar, with the downy undersides to its leaves, has very doubtful claims as a pratice species that the very doubtful claims as a native species; the true aspen, on the contrary—smaller in growth than all the rest, and with the undersides of its leaves pale green, and smooth—is as thorough a British tree as any in the land, and has its place among the freest and wildest vegetation of the torrent-gorges of the

northern hills. If all the naturalized species of English trees were removed in an instant by some miraculous power, in many landscapes there would seem to be but few trees left. It is hardly possible to imagine some of the broad grass vales of the west without their innumerable hedgerow elms, which to the distant eye make a forest of the pleasant pasture land, or to picture the great skies of the Fen country with out the poplars quaking towards the zenith. Yet, it is by virtue of the number of individuals, not of species, that our trees of foreign origin fill so large Yet, it

who contemplate making a flower garden in such positions. The walls we have in mind are those not built for wall gardening, but which may be adapted to that purpose. In many gardens there may be several walls of that description, either dry ones or those of masonry, which were originally built to mark a boundary or a division in the grounds, and would lend themselves admirably to artistic adornment. Sometimes, too, such walls are of great age, having the surface of the stones or bricks darkened by years of exposure, and are, perhaps, even partly covered with moss and lichen. Such a wall might be, by careful treatment, greatly beautified. Take the dry walls first. We will imagine that we have to deal with an old dry wall, and that from the soil between the joints of the stones weeds of all kinds have sprung. It should be fairly easy to eradicate such weeds by raking out the joints with an iron bar or a large chisel. Where exceptionally robust weeds have taken possession, it might even be advisable to use the iron bar as a lever for removing a few of the stones altogether, and either replacing them after the weeds are rooted up, or, if the absence of such stones does not seriously affect the stability of the wall, by filling these comparatively large holes with good soil, making them suitable for bolder plants. Rock cistus, heaths and alpine rhododenfrom are suitable for such a purpose, or if the wall is in shade, large ferns might be used with advantage. An important matter to be observed during the operation of planting is that the surface of the wall where the large holes were made must be again made good with small stones around the plants. This will keep the roots moist, and prevent the soil fro will keep the roots moist, and prevent the soil from crumbling away and falling out after frost. Stones more or less wedge-shaped are best for this purpose, and after planting they should be firmly driven in with a strong wooden mailet. This, if heavy enough, is preferable to an iron hammer, which would be likely to break the stones.

Natural Grouping of the Plants Care should, of course, be taken not to make

already completed is easier and requires less skill than if the flowers were placed in position during the construction of the wall. The reason for this is that in the latter case it is more difficult to pictrat in the latter case it is more difficult to pic-ture in one's wind what the completed group of plants would be like, and plants put in during the progress of wall-building cannot be altered or re-arranged without trouble. Then, again, if the layers of wall stones are anything like of even thicknesses there will be a strong temptation to put the plants too much in lines. Mr. Meyer always found it a good plan in such a case first of all to review the plants at disposal which are to be "built," so to speak, into the wall as the builder's work proceeds; then, secondly, on a piece of paper to make a rough sketch how the kinds chosen should be arranged, whether a group should be large or small, and where this or that color should predominate so as to where this or that color should predominate so as to harmonize with that of the adjoining group; finally, where late or early flowering things should be so as best to ensure a succession of bloom. Such a sketch need not be elaborate, nor need it be drawn to scale. Let a dozen crosses represent, say, a group of a dozen abrietias, twenty dots a group of arabis, and suffer a the colored crayons may help to facilitate distribution of color, etc. Armed with the color of the colored crayons are called the colored crayons may help to say that the colored crayons may help to say the colored crayons may help to say that the colored crayons may help to say the colored crayons may be colored crayons may be colored crayons and the colored crayons may be colored crayons and the colored crayons are colored crayons and the colored crayons are colored crayons and the colored crayons are colored crayon such a sketch, however roughly done, we can feel sure of effects beforehand.

More Advice on Planting

Arranging plants on a wall already built is much Arranging plants on a wall already built is much easier, though the planting is more difficult. The best practical method consists in having twigs and sticks of various sorts and sizes, which might be stuck into the wall to indicate where the plants should be put. For instance, a cluster of laurel twigs might be placed where we consider a batch of alyssum would be most desirable, ordinary wooden labels might stand for a group of campanulas, bamboo sticks for helianthemum, and so on. In this way we might arrange on the wall itself where the principal and most effective groups should go, and how the plants should be placed before anything is SKEEL

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Date, Octobe