

which is found in its forests, is ranked under the separate head of *Larix*, (Larch,) as usual with the older Botanists.

#### AMERICAN LARCH—*Larix Americana*.

"Leaves deciduous, cones oblong, margin of the scales bent in, bracts fiddle-shaped."

*Description*.—The French Canadians call this tree *Epinette rouge*, and the descendants of the Dutch in America have called it *Tamarack*. It is most generally designated in New Brunswick by the Indian name of *Hackmatack*; but on the Northern or Gulf Shore of the Province, it is sometimes styled *Cypress*, yet much more frequently *Juniper*, to neither of which designations has it the slightest claim.

The European and American Larches are more strictly confined than any other resinous trees to the northern zone of the two Continents, and they are the first to disappear in approaching a milder sky. The American species is most abundant and of the largest size between the parallels of 43° and 48° north latitude, which includes the whole of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. In these Colonies it most frequently grows in low and moist places, often forming dense masses of wood, of very considerable extent. From its great hardihood and capacity of vegetating with a very small degree of heat, it is enabled to brave the greatest intensity of cold, and is found growing in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay, and in Newfoundland to its northernmost extremity.

The American Larch, like that of Europe, is a magnificent vegetable, with a straight, slender trunk, eighty feet or more in height, and upwards of two feet in diameter. Trees of this size and even larger, are most abundant in the Counties of Kent, Northumberland, and Gloucester, but of greater or less size they abound throughout New Brunswick. The numerous branches of this tree, except near the summit, are horizontal or declining. The bark is smooth and polished on the trunk and larger limbs, and rugged on the smaller branches. The leaves are flexible, shorter than those of the European species, and collected in small bunches; they are shed in the autumn and renewed in the spring. The flowers, like those of the Pines, are separate upon the same tree; the male aments, which appear before the leaves, are small, oblong, and scaly, with two yellow anthers under each scale. The female flowers are also disposed in aments, and are composed of floral leaves covering two ovaries, which in process of time become small, erect, scaly cones, three or four lines long. At the base of each scale lie two minute winged seeds. On some stocks the cones are violet-colored in the spring instead of green, but this is an accidental variation, as the trees are in no other respects peculiar.

The Larch tree does not bear the least clipping, as the terminating buds send forth the branches. The roots spread near the surface of the earth, except the central root, which pushes perpendicularly downwards. If this "~~top~~-root" is broken off, or interrupted in its descent, the stem ceases to shoot upwards, and the tree remains a dwarf. top

Sir A. B. Lambert, in his splendid work on the Pine, describes two species of American Larch—*Larix Americana*, and *Larix Microcarpa*,—the latter characterized by smaller cones, and more drooping branches. But there would seem no real foundation for the distinction, and *Larix Microcarpa* is not now considered a distinct species, but merely a variety of the *Larix Americana*, the difference being occasioned by the influences of soil and situation, which so much affect all the resinous trees. Linnæus states that Larch trees live to the age of