

STRIPED MAPLE; *A. Pennsylvanicum*.—This pretty tree is seldom seen more than 12 feet in height, yet it occasionally measures twice that figure. In Maine it is called Moose Wood, the bark and tender branches being the favorite food of the Moose. The bark is beautifully striped with green and brown. The leaves are successfully applied to inflamed wounds and bruises but no use has been made of the wood.

STAG HORN SUMACH; *Rhus typhina*.—This tall shrub sometimes rises to the height of 25 feet and thus becomes a small tree. It is conspicuous in the autumn by its bright, red clusters of fruit, and its leaves of varied and brilliant hues. The leaves and bark are used in tanning, and the root has been found efficacious in fevers.

BASSWOOD; *Tilia Americana*.—This tree standing alone forms a beautiful and striking object in the landscape, from its regular conical outline and its rich masses of foliage. Its wood is soft and white, and of a fine close grain. It is much used for the panels of carriages and wagons, for bottoms and sides of drawers, for broom handles, and where pine is scarce, as a substitute for that in inside finishing work. It is also carved into bowls and toys, and its charcoal is by no means inferior.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

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(From *Our Home, and Science Gossip*.)

A tradition prevails among all nations that a general deluge has inundated the world, and that the globe has been peopled from the east.

Without regard to the sacred writings of different nations, let us see if there is any probable foundation on which to predicate an opinion that a universal flood has swept over the earth, and destroyed all life which it contained, save such as was preserved in some miraculous manner for the perpetuation of the species.

It is well known to geologists that continents and islands have been frequently submerged by the ocean, and have as frequently emerged from their watery beds. It is on such a hypothesis alone we can account for the immense lime formations, with their fossil remains, lines of stratification, and other evidences of aqueous formation, extending over almost limitless regions.

The microscope reveals the fact that all our native coals, even anthracite and cannel, have a ligneous origin. They are the products of the immense vegetable growths of the car-

boniferous period, when the earth and temperature were especially adapted to the production of this form of life. By some mighty convulsion the continent on which they had grown sank below the sea level; the waters rolled over them with great force, prostrating the dense verdure. Each succeeding wave brought a fresh deposit of debris, which buried it deeper and still deeper beneath the ocean bed. The phosphate of lime, held in solution by the higher temperature of that era was precipitated by its reduction, in which are now found the fossilized remains of the moluscan and crustacean formations of that era, and adapted to its elevated temperature.

Again the bed of the ocean was elevated, and became dry land. Another growth of vegetable life followed, to be in turn submerged, as in the preceding instance, and then emergencies and depressions followed each other through long cycles, as numerous as different strata of coal are superposed one above another. The chemical conditions which prevent wood from decomposing under water, deprived of the oxygen of the atmosphere, to which were added immense pressure, effected its transformation into coal.

Volcanic eruptions, more grand and terrific than anything we have any conception of, in consequence of the then comparative thinness of the earth's crust, the interior heat of the molten mass beneath, and the denser atmosphere surrounding it, made the depressions and upheavals more frequent than through subsequent periods.

When the temperature of the surface was sufficiently reduced to admit of it, evidenced by their fossilized remains in the rocks, the earth was peopled with higher and higher forms of life, each emerging from lower forms, until, lastly, man appeared. Through the long and almost interminable ages that followed, his successors spread over continents and islands. Each was populated with such orders of life as was best adapted to its peculiar climate and productions. Thus animal life was adapted to the surrounding conditions, not the conditions to the needs of the animal, for it was of a later creation.

Those immense bodies of land, now covered by the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans, sometime in the very remote past, were continents. At the same time much, and perhaps nearly all the continents of Asia, Africa, Europe and America, formed the beds of cotemperaneous oceans.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)