

THE FORESTS OF CANADA.

If Canada has been highly distinguished in any respect by the bounty of nature, it is in the number and variety of its trees. An English traveller, writing on this subject, said: "I was never tired of the forest scenery of America, the endless diversity of its foliage always preventing it from being monotonous." A stranger gazing for the first time on the unbroken forest is peculiarly struck with admiration at the surprising and to him novel scenery it presents, a scenery peculiarly its own. A wide expanse of unknown extent, canopied above by the dark mass of spreading foliage; countless columns of trunks, which, far as the eye can reach, mile after mile, rise tall and erect, supporting that living roof, and long-drawn vistas through which the eye seeks in vain to penetrate the depths of the forest solitude; such is the scene which meets the eye. But it is when the first frost has touched the trees, and the change of colour in the leaves has set in, that the forests put on their greatest beauty. Each kind has its own hue—above all the maple—and every hue is lovely. The leaf of the maple, the first to colour, remains throughout the most beautiful in its golden yellow and crimson. Lofty trees and humble undergrowth, and climbing creepers, all alike deck the landscape with every tint that can be borrowed from the light, till the whole looks like the scenery of a fairy tale, and presents a spectacle unknown to the residents of the Old World. McGregor, in his work on British America, speaking of the forests, says: "Two or three frosty nights in the decline of autumn transform the boundless verdure of a whole empire into every possible tint of brilliant scarlet, rich violet, every shade of brown, vivid crimson, and glittering yellow. The stern, inexorable fir tribes alone maintain their eternal sombre green; all others, in mountains or in valleys, burst into the most glorious vegetable beauty, and exhibit the most splendid and most enchanting panorama on earth."

Dr. Hough, in his Forestry report to Congress in 1877, says: "The reciprocal influences that operate between woodlands and climate appear to indicate a close relation between them. It is observed that certain consequences follow the clearing off of forests, such as the diminution of rivers and the drying up of streams and springs; other effects scarcely less certain are seen in the occurrence of destructive floods and of unseasonable and prolonged droughts, with other vicissitudes of climate