



## THE WHITE POPLAR AND ITS USES.

THE wood of *Populus alba* is white, soft, light and very tough ; it is used for bent ware, and made into various kinds of hoops for tubs, pails and ships' masts, etc. ; the timber is sawn into boards and strips from three-eighths to five-eighths of an inch thick ; it is then steeped and steamed to admit of its being bent with ease and without splitting. It is also made into corn shovels, bottoms of tubs, pails, corn and other measures, and also used in cheap cabinet work. I ought also to add that it is used extensively for railway carriage break blocks, on account, I suppose, of the non-combustible character of its wood, which will bear almost any amount of friction without igniting ; and, moreover, it is very durable under friction. As a timber tree it is classed amongst inferior kinds, but it is the best of all the Poplars ; at least, in some parts of the country it is preferred to any other kind. It is worth from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per foot, but the timber must be sound, clean and of large dimensions to realise this price ; smaller-sized and ordinary quality trees sell at from 10d. to 1s. per foot. The Black Italian Poplar (*P. monilifera*) is used for similar purposes as the White Poplar or Abele, as it is also popularly called ; it is, however, a coarser tree with a more branching habit, and, as a rule, it does not cut up so clean and free from small knots as the latter, neither is its wood so white. It is not in such request for bent ware as the Abele, and, in consequence, it is hardly worth so much per foot in the market. Both these Poplars are extremely fast growers in moist heavy land. The White Poplar exhibits a highly ornamental aspect in the landscape, particularly in spring, when the foliage is unfolding its whiteness, presenting a striking and pleasing contrast when associated with darker-foliaged trees. It is also a most distinct and effective tree, owing to the whiteness and smoothness of its stem, exhibiting a glittering appearance, particularly during sunshine, when its bark looks almost as bright as polished silver. The name White Poplar is applied to it on account of the white and woolly under-surface of the leaves ; its bark, too, except when old, is white and very smooth. It is probably indigenous in Eastern and Southern England, readily propagating itself by means of seeds and suckers.

—O. in *The Garden*

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 ERRORS IN GROUPING.

AT least one person in three of those who plant trees in groups or belts for ornamental purposes commit errors in consequence of not taking "one long look ahead." Probably, in many instances, mistakes are made in consequence of the ignorance of the persons directing the planting of the trees, as