

—if what no man could create, must yield its beautiful form, and its valued life to man's necessities, let the sacrifice be made with sorrow and regret,—let the woodman spare the tree if he can. I adduce valuable testimony to the importance of forests, as follows:

Extract from the Report of the Secretary of the Bombay Geographical Society for 1850.

It was early remarked by HUMBOLDT, that men in every climate, by felling the trees that cover the tops and sides of mountains, prepare at once two calamities for future generations—the want of fuel and a scarcity of water. Trees, by the nature of their perspiration, and the radiation from their leaves in a sky without clouds, surround themselves with an atmosphere constantly cold and misty. They affect the copiousness of springs, not, as was long believed, by a peculiar attraction for the vapors diffused through the air, but because, by sheltering the soil from the direct action of the sun, they diminish the evaporation of the water produced by rain.

When forests are destroyed with an imprudent precipitation, as they are everywhere in America, the springs entirely dry up or become less abundant. The beds of the rivers, remaining dry during a part of the year, are converted into torrents whenever great rains fall on the heights. The sward and the moss disappearing with the brushwood from the sides of the mountains, the waters falling in rain are no longer impeded in their course; and, instead of slowly augmenting the bed of the rivers by progressive filtration, they furrow, during heavy showers, the sides of the hills, bear down the loosened soil, and form those sudden inundations that devastate the country. Hence it results that the destruction of forests, the want of permanent springs, and the existence of torrents, are three phenomena closely connected together.

In India their effects are very appreciable. At Dapoolie the climate is much more hot and dry than formerly; streams now dry up in December which used to flow until April or May. This is attributed to the destruction of forests which formerly covered the neighboring hills, now barren and desolate. In southern Coucan, within the space of fifteen years, the climate has been greatly deteriorated by the diminution of vegetation, and consequently of rain. The people of Pinang have memorialized government against the destruction of their forests, feeling sure that the result, by its continuance, will be the ruin of their climate. The dreadful drouths which now so frequently visit the Cape de Verd Islands are avowedly due to the removal of their forests; and in the high lands of Greece, where trees have been cut down, springs have disappeared. In India, a few years since, a proprietor, in laying down some grounds, well watered by an excellent spring, for a coffee garden, at Genmore, despite the advice of the natives, cleared the adjacent ground, when the supply of water vanished. Cases are also cited,

where the clearing of jungles was followed in every case by an almost immediate diminution of water; when the jungle was allowed to grow again, the water returned; the springs were opened, and flowed as formerly. The St. Helena Almanac for 1848, gives particulars of the increase of the fall of rain for the last few years attributable to the increase of wood; within the present century the fall has nearly doubled. The plantations seem to have performed another service to the island. Formerly, heavy floods, caused by sudden torrents of rain, were almost periodic and frequently very destructive; for the last thirty years they have been unknown.

JOCHIM FREDERIC SCHOUW, Professor of Botany at Copenhagen, speaks as follows of the influence of forests upon atmosphere:—"We find the most evident signs of it in the torrid zone. The forests increase the rain and moisture, and produce springs and running streams. Tracts destitute of woods become very strongly heated, the air above then ascends perpendicularly, and thus prevents the clouds from sinking, and the constant winds (trade winds or monsoons,) which can blow uninterruptedly over large surfaces, not allow the transition of vapors into the form of drops. In the forests, on the contrary, the clothed soil does not become so heated, and, on the sides, the evaporation from the trees favors cooling; therefore when the currents of air loaded with vapor reach the forests, they meet with that which condenses them and changes them into rain. Since, moreover, the evaporation of earth goes on more slowly beneath the trees, since these also evaporate very copiously in a climate, the atmosphere in these forests has a high degree of humidity, this great humidity, at the same time producing many springs and streams."

Testimony of this kind could be accumulated, and I hope that the reading public will give the matter serious thought.—H. T. B.—*Rural Yorker*.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP BY A BEAR
The Ottawa Citizen is responsible for the following:—

For a few years back a bear has infested farms in the 5nd Concession South March, City of Carleton, and has destroyed much stock, calves, sheep and pigs. This spring he has been very destructive, killing and injuring on farms convenient to each other, 35 sheep, a large hog. On the night of the 2nd of May, I visited the farm of Mr. Wm. McLaughlin, tore open a strong stable door where Mr. McLaughlin had his sheep and a span of horses enclosed for safety; he injured five of the sheep badly and carried off one. The next day Mr. McLaughlin found a gun in the bush where the bear had left one of the sheep he had carried off. In a few days afterwards a report of a gun was heard, and