

another, the damage done to public works alone was estimated at £350,000,—*eight millions, seven hundred and fifty thousand francs*. And my attention was called anew to the subject.

On addressing myself to M. Faré, Director-General of the Administration of Forests in France, there was afforded to me every facility I could desire for extending and verifying the information I had previously collected in regard to the works of *reboisement* to which I have referred. Copies of additional documents were supplied to me, with copies of works sanctioned by the Administration, and arrangements were made for my visiting and inspecting, with every assistance required, the works begun and the works completed; and thus I have been enabled to submit a much more complete report than it would otherwise have been in my power to produce.

While the compilation I have prepared owes its publication at this time to the occurrence of the inundations of last year at the Cape of Good Hope, the publication has been undertaken in the hope that in other countries besides South Africa the information may be turned to practical account.

Translation of extract from letter to the author by M. ALEXANDRE SURELL, *Ingenieur des Ponts et Chaussées*, chairman of the *Compagnie des Chemins des Fer du Midi et du Canal latéral à la Garonne*, and author of *Etude sur les Torrents des Hautes-Alpes, Ouvrage Couronné par l'Académie des Sciences en 1842*:—‘You are rendering an eminent service to society in calling the attention of serious thinkers to the subject of *reboisements* and *gazonnements*. It is a vital question affecting our descendants, specially in southern climates, there are useful truths which have to be diffused there, and you have fulfilled this duty amongst your countrymen.

‘In France public opinion, long indifferent, is now sufficiently enlightened on the question, and much has been done.

‘I have been able to establish in the course of a recent journey that, throughout a great part of Switzerland, in Styria, in Carinthia, and in the Tyrol, the same phenomena which have issued in the desolation of our French Alps are beginning to produce the same effects. There have been recognised a number of extinct torrents which had originated in the destruction of the forests. If people go on sleeping, and the administration or the communes do nothing to arrest the evil, posterity will have a sad inheritance devolved upon it.

‘You have given, with very great clearness, a *résumé* of what I have done in France, be it by my works, or be it by my workings, for the regeneration of our mountains.’

Translation of extract from letter by the late M. Ernest Cézanne, *Ingenieur des Ponts et Chaussées*, *Représentant des Hautes Alpes à l'Assemblée Nationale*, and author of *Une Suite* to the work of M. Surell. ‘The post brought to me yesterday your very interesting volume on *Reboisement*. I at once betook myself to the perusal of it; and I am surprised that a foreigner could digest so completely such a collection of our French documents drawn from so many diverse sources. The problem