

THE TREE A COMPOSITE BEING.

A TREE is a composite being; a kind of community by itself. The leaves and limbs are all the time striving with each other to see which shall have the most room and the most sunshine. Each strives for all it can get. While some perish in the attempt, or meet with only very indifferent success, the strongest of the buds survive.

Each leaf helps to sustain the limb which carries it, and each limb furnishes some nourishment to the common trunk for the common welfare. The tax is always adjusted according to the ability of each to contribute. As the limbs of a tree are constantly striving for the mastery, so each bush and tree in grove or forest is striving with others for the mastery. The weakest succumb to the strongest; some perish early, some lead a feeble existence for many years, while even the strongest are more or less injured. With plenty of room, the trunk will be short, the branches many and wide-spread; where crowded, the lower

limbs will perish for want of light. Dead limbs fall to the ground to protect and enrich it for nourishing the surviving limbs and the trunk. The scars heal over, more limbs perish as new ones creep upward, and thus we find tall, clean trunks in a dense forest. -Exchange.

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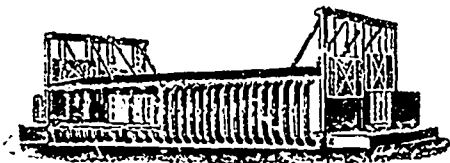
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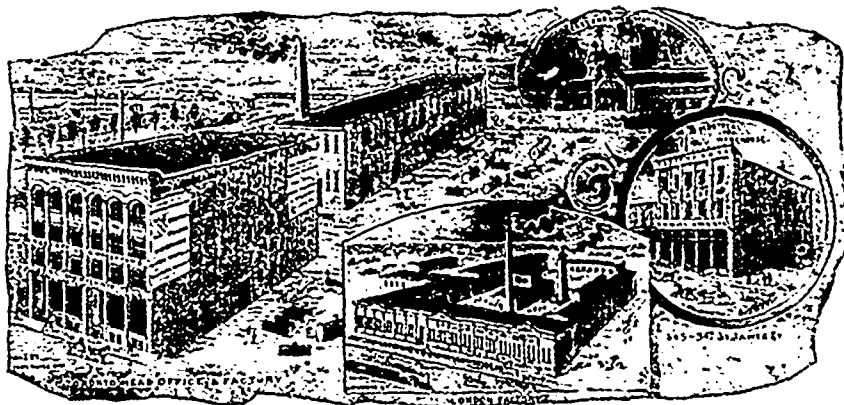
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