

to the eye, but it does not allow so great a weight of snow to lodge on the hedge as would otherwise be the case. No hedge can flourish if placed in the shade, or near large trees; and every thing depends upon the attention and kind of treatment it receives, particularly during the first half-dozen years. Indeed this remark applies with equal force to all species of planting. A tree, it should be remembered, is a thing endowed with the wonderful and mysterious principle termed *life*: it is an organic structure, abounding in cells and vessels, many of which are of the most minute and delicate texture. The plant, unlike the animal having no power of locomotion, must passively submit to the influence of the conditions in which it is placed, and the influences by which it is surrounded. Yet from the manner in which planting is commonly performed, trees might be thought to be as hardy as stones. To tear a young tree from the seed bed or the forest, thereby mutilating its roots, which are frequently exposed for several days to the parching action of the sun and air, and then digging a hole scarcely large enough, perhaps, to receive without compression, what roots remain, and after carelessly filling in, pronounce the work of planting done. The results of this fatal mistake are unhappily to be seen, more or less, everywhere. What large numbers of plants under such treatment die the very first year! how many keep up for a series of years what perhaps is even worse, a constant struggle between life and death, a phenomenon any thing but pleasant for an educated eye to look upon; and it may well be asked how very few indeed—by what must be considered the merest chance—ever reach the point of perfect maturity, and their natural proportionate development.

For planting of any kind to succeed, the ground must in the first instance be deeply worked, and when necessary manured and drained. The young plants should be carefully removed, and as carefully placed in their new and final situations; the depth to be regulated, in some degree, in accordance with the natural habits of the tree, but *deep* planting, especially in wet soils, must in the generality of cases inevitably result in failure. Nor is the planter's care at an end when the young tree has been placed in the ground, even though the most liberal and scientific preliminaries may have been scrupulously observed. The *after management*—especially in case of fruit trees—such as loosening the surface and keeping down weeds, occasional manuring or mulching, (the latter a practice in our hot summers of the greatest benefit) judicious pruning, and protection against cattle, swine, and even insects, as far as it is practicable, is absolutely necessary to insure uninterrupted progression, and complete and final success.

But I must draw these, which I cannot help feeling will be thought somewhat desultory observations, to a conclusion. I am unwilling, however, to do so without adverting distinctly to the great importance of promoting through our public institutions and by all the practicable means in our power, the knowledge and love of nature and of art among the great masses of the people. To enlarge their minds and the exercise of their social sympathies, and to purify and elevate their tastes, should be the great work which all who are friendly to the advancement of their country and race should undertake in an earnest and hopeful spirit. To form that habit of mind which enables us to associate with all the works of the Creator, reverential and elevating feelings, opens up an unfailing source of true and permanent enjoyment. The beautiful as well as the sublime in landscape has a moral, a refining, and an ennobling power over the soul, favorable to the growth of the higher virtues, and of a pure and exalted piety. The intelligent observer of nature cannot fail to find,

“Tongues in trees,  
Books in the running brooks;  
Sermons in stones,  
And good in every thing.”