

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 swamps whenever great rains fall on the heights. Upward and the moss disappearing with the subwood 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, the furrow, during heavy storms, the sides of the hills, bear down the loosened soil, and form the 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 Calcutta the climate is much more hot and dry than formerly; streams now dry up in December and are not used to flow until April or May. This is attributed to the destruction of forest 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 Madras have memorialized government against the destruction of their forests, feeling sure that the result, by its continuance, will be the ruin of the climate. The dreadful drouths which now frequently visit the Cape de Verde Islands are entirely due to the removal of their forests; 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, followed the advice of the natives, cleared the adjacent ground, when the supply of water vanished. In Java 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; springs were opened, and flowed as formerly.

The *St. Helena Almanac* for 1848, gives particular notice of the increase of the fall of rain for the few years, attributable to the increase of vegetation; within the present century the fall has nearly doubled. The plantations seem to have rendered another service to the island. Formerly heavy floods, caused by sudden torrents of rain, were almost periodical, and frequently destructive; for the last nine years they have been unknown.

FREDERICK SCHOTW, Professor of Botany at Copenhagen, speaks as follows of the influence of forests upon the atmosphere:—"We find the evident signs of it in the torrid zone. The forests increase the rain and the moisture, and reduce springs and running streams. Tracts of bare woods become very strongly heated, and the air above then ascends perpendicularly, and reveals the clouds from sinking, and the winds (trade winds or monsoons,) where a blow interruptedly over large surfaces,

do 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, besides, 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 change into rain. Since, moreover, the evaporation of the earth goes on more slowly beneath the trees, and since these also evaporate very copiously in a hot 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 New Yorker*.

### The Salmon.

A writer in Chamber's *Edinburg Journal* says, "the destruction of this fine fish would seem to be the same everywhere." This is indeed true. It is yet within the memory of many, when the rivers of Maine were so plentifully stocked with salmon as the most productive stream in the B. N. A. Colonies. Now, the taking of a single one even, is an event of rare occurrence.

The same is true of New Brunswick, where the noble fish was once taken upon the small streams in hundreds, they are now found but in small numbers or not at all. Indeed, whether in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the United States, or these British North American Provinces, the course pursued is that which will eventually lead to the extermination, rather than the preservation of this noble fish. Thus destroying a valuable source of revenue and profit, as well as exterminating this Prince of fresh water fishes—the Salmon.

"So great has been the diminution of Salmon of late years in the United Kingdom, that serious fears have begun to be entertained, lest the supply should fail altogether. In consequence Royal Commissioners have been appointed to enquire into the matter in England, Scotland and Wales." Copies of their reports to Parliament have already been published. "They are very bulky, but most interesting volumes, scarcely to be waded through, however, except by those who take a deep interest in the matter."

The *London Times*—which is a good authority on all topics—takes up the matter in a leading editorial, from which the following extracts are made.

"Sowing and reaping, working and eating are things which in this world of ours, go so necessarily together, that an exception to the universal rule reads almost like a miracle. Yet an exception there is. One description of produce, and one only, is self-grown, self-reared, and self-ripened, without any demand for space, care, seed, or investment of human pains or money. Salmon flock of their own accord to the rivers of these islands, and there deposit their spawn.—