

giving the preference to native shrubs, but avoiding such as the alder and the elder, which are subject to the attacks of insects. Unless there is a public spirit which can be trusted, it is wise also to reject those which, like the May-pear and wild cherry, are likely to be broken for their flowers or their fruit. Low shrubs are the best, in most situations, so that the grounds and buildings may not be hidden from the road; but let it be shrubs of low growth and not those kept low by cutting back.

If on wet or clayey soil, the ground-nut, wild clematis and wild convolvulus may be planted, to cover fence and hedge-row with their drapery. In a drier situation, settings of Virginia creeper can be used. The Virginia creeper is a rapid grower, and is often used alone for covering a fence. It may be clipped like a hedge, where a straight line effect is required; but this can only be where there is an imposing building with terraced grounds and straight bordered walks, and even then the question is one which must be left to the architect, for possibly the wayward growth of the creeper may be just what is needed to connect the symmetry within the enclosure and the irregularity without.

In conclusion, then, the architecture of a grand edifice may require a formal treatment of the surroundings; but, with this limitation, it may be laid down as a canon of taste that we should never clip or mutilate a tree, either at top or bottom, nor try to confine a growing plant within unnatural lines; and nowhere can this general rule have greater force than in school grounds. There, for educational reasons, the most appropriate ornaments are indigenous trees and plants in their natural forms; for the love of nature is the best introduction to the love of art.

J. VROOM.

St. Stephen, N. B.

WHAT IS OUR DUTY.

“What is our duty here? To tend
From good to better — thence to best;
Grateful to drink life's cup — then bend
Unmurmuring to our bed of rest;
To pluck the flowers that round us blow,
Scattering our fragrance as we go.

And so to live that when the sun
Of our existence sinks in night,
Memorials sweet of mercies done
May shrine our names in memories' light,
And the blest seeds we scattered bloom
An hundred fold in days to come.”

— *Arbor Day Manual*.

Edw. Knowlton

Our Native and Our City Trees — How we May all Know Them.*

Of all plants, trees are the most conspicuous, on account of their size and beauty. Every one of us has an instinctive, if not a nurtured, love for them. We seek their cooling summer shade, and their shelter from the stormy blast; even our domestic herds and flocks, and the wild animals do the same. With pleasure we reach up to the ripening fruit which those that we call fruit trees offer. People, even the most incurious, who have not been trained to observe the operations of nature, cannot help noticing, with some measure of delight, the budding forth of the trees in springtime; the profusion of blossoms with which they lighten up the early summer woods; the fresh livery of green, in many shades, that they put on when the fine weather comes; the gay colors which they flaunt to the autumn breeze in the bright sunshine of the declining days. And if any there be who are callous to all this beneficent beauty, even such can appreciate the luscious fruits, whose plump cheeks and glowing hues seem to bathe the trees in grateful wreathed smiles, as they bring their last tribute of the year to the honest husbandman. He has planted, and fed, and watered, and pruned, and defended them, as if they were flesh and blood children of his own. Let no boy be so ignorant as to imagine that if he assaults an apple tree, held so dear, he will meet with mercy from its owner.

The number of *different kinds* of trees in a temperate country like ours is not great. Compared with the grasses, or the rushes and sedges, or the daisy-flowered plants, the species of trees are really comparatively few, and, then, the differences we see in trees are usually well marked, needing no magnifier; for the trees belong to widely different natural orders, or what we may call, in accordance with the language of our time, evolutionary categories. For these reasons any pupil of a school can soon be taught to know all the important TREES of his or her native Province.

The trees may be set apart into two distinct armies that have very little in common, except that they are trees:

1st. The broad-leaved trees, whose leaves have a conspicuous mid-rib, with side veins proceeding from it at nearly regular intervals of space, and a network between; (all this may be clearly seen by holding up the leaf between the eye and the light.)

2nd. The needle-leaved trees, whose leaves are long,

* Written for persons whose minds have not been disturbed by botanical terms. In case some scientific student may venture to read this schoolboy's article, I beg to state in advance for the liberties taken with Her Majesty's English as she is printed in "the botanics," — G. L.