

way of the invaders, what obstacles does it not constitute? Especially in the neighborhood of fortified places, wooded tracts serve as an obstruction to the advance of the foe. The latter finds it impossible to penetrate them with its convoys; he cannot build through them the railroads necessary and he is therefore unable to transport any farther his huge guns. Besides, the home forces can conceal themselves in those woods; posted in ambush among the trees and under the branches, they cannot be detected even by aerial reconnoitring, and they thus place themselves in a splendid strategical position." The writer draws the attention of his readers to the fact that this present war has amply demonstrated the usefulness of the forests in wartime:

"Everywhere, these (the forests) have been of a precious assistance to our soldiers; it is while concealed in them that we have lost the least men. From the offensive point of view, in this war of trenches which has been waged for long months, it is where our positions were protected by woods that we have gained more ground. From the defensive point of view, they have fully favored our troops. The woods of Argonne, however reduced from Dehouriez, have set up in the way of the same invaders the barriers of 1792, and thus the investment of Verdun was averted. The woods of Grand-Couronné have contributed to the halting of the sad retreat of Morhange and to the resistance in the defence of Nancy. These services are recorded in the orders of the days; the country thus learns the names of the woods of La Grenie, Bolante, La Chéminée-Saint-Hubert, Le Prêtre, of the forests of Apremont Grand-Couronné, etc.; our brave boys describe them in their letters."

*In Times of Peace.*

Mr. Marin now refers to the advantages derived from the existence of the forests in times of peace, from the utility and aesthetical points of

view. It is needless to mention the value of the forest as a supplier of the timber used for industrial purposes; it is recognized as the foremost asset of a nation. Having reminded his readers of the great number of masterpieces in arts inspired by the forest, he deprecates the fact that the people do not seem to appreciate all the beauty of our wooded domain and the benefits derived therefrom:

"The citizens seek in them a day's or an afternoon's rest, but they do not care cutting the barks, destroying young shrubs, pulling out frail branches, for no purpose whatsoever but simply yielding, as it were, to an instinct of destruction which we would not even forgive in a child. The country-folks themselves, however laboriously and assiduously bent on their toil, do not as sufficiently as they ought respect all the trees, and in several of our provinces, chiefly in Normandy, entire regions have simply been ruined as by mere vandalism." The writer states that in many villages and towns, there are scarcely any trees on public places; vast parks are to be found where there are no shady trees. The value of the forest cannot be overestimated, and in compliance with principles well-nigh eternal, we are bound to protect it.

"The salubrious influence of the forest is as vivifying as that of the sea; it has over the latter the advantage of what I might call 'the uniform effect upon the mind' from which the nervous and irritable people derive most healthy benefits. For whoever wishes to and can avail himself or herself of its influence, the forest is a free physician and a dispenser of balmy essences powerfully invigorating. It is there that can be sought and nearly always found the vital and mental equilibrium lacking in many people otherwise healthy, not afflicted with neither serious ailments nor apparent injuries, but who are overworked and exhausted by the conditions of modern living." The writer here names a