

turning them out at all, and in fact it amounts to a species of dishonesty, for the owners must be well aware that they can get nothing or next to nothing there, and if they live at all it must be by trespassing on their neighbors; and there is probably nothing that tends more to keep up the too often hard feelings in a rural neighborhood than these petty trespasses. For instance, you may have a little cherished spot of green sward outside of your entrance gate, and which nearly always springs earlier than anything within your enclosure; and some fine spring morning, when you go to town, you expect on your return to have it gladden your eyes, when lo! instead of that, you find that a careless neighbor's hog has turned it upside down; and when you have been at the trouble to get all your own pockets supplied with nose jewels, to see fifteen or twenty of your neighbor's hogs digging away with all their might in your meadow, mangle all your philanthropy, you cannot help but feel something that from choice you would rather not.

I myself introduced last of post and pole fence some five or six years ago, and which has already been copied from, to a considerable extent, and which makes a very neat as well as substantial fence—it is made by boring three inch holes through the post, and fitting the poles into them; it has the advantage of the labor of boring and turning the ends of the pole, being done by machinery, thereby saving a great deal of hand labor, which usually makes such fences expensive. But, as both round cedar posts and poles, are, as well as rails, getting scarce, I have been led to think of something as a substitute; and, as I had already got the boring and turning machine, I thought it possible to apply them to sawed materials; and, knowing well that we had a very great amount of durable timber, which could not be used for fencing in the ordinary way by splitting or being sawed into boards, such as oak, ash, birch, elm, or even maple and beech; I thought it might be sawed into a shape that would not only give it durability but strength. The common way of board fences require nails, and if sawed into flat rails, has to be morticed into the posts, which requires so much hand labor as to make it too expensive. My plan is to saw the timber into scantling of a diamond shape, making it five inches the broadest way and three inches the other; placing the acute angle upwards, thereby putting it in the best shape for throwing off the water, rendering it next to impervious from rot and at the same time making it sufficiently strong to resist violence both perpendicularly and laterally; the posts can be either round or square, and bored by an augur driven by power, and the rails can be cut to fit at each end, also by power, and by this means hand labor is almost done away with; and, it at the same time not only makes the most substantial fence I have yet seen, but one that pleases the eye; and what, I would ask, adds more to the beauty of the landscape than neat pretty fences? and what is more unpleasant to the eye of the old countryman, on his first arrival in our continent, than our hideous looking zigzag fences; and I know from my own feelings, after living

here more than thirty years, that their appearance does not mend by time; as all who have seen the green lanes of England, and the beautiful hawthorn hedges in full bloom can abundantly testify. However, I most seriously consider after all our endeavors to make the natural timber of the country spin out as far as we can, that live fences must be our ultimatum. It will not probably be much attempted in our generation, but our successors will have to submit to the stern necessity, except where abundance of stone is found; and when we know so well that hedges are the principal fences in Britain, and have been for centuries, why should they not be here?—They not only make a permanent fence, but they afford protection to the fields they enclose, during our inclement winters not only by keeping the snow from blowing off the ground, but affording shelter in other ways. I have tried the English hawthorn to some extent, with moderate success, having half a mile on my own farm, and which will in two or three years be a good hedge. The English thorn not being a native of our country is subject to a great many disadvantages in the way of insects, the Apis or plant louse being very destructive; the slug also which has been so destructive to our Cherry and Pear trees, is equally injurious to the hawthorn; the field mouse, in hard winters, destroy them by eating the bark; and I have now come to the conclusion when I try again, to get something indigenous or a native of our continent. There is a plant called Buckthorn, a native of the northern part of this continent, and which I think from what I have seen of it, more adapted for us than the English thorn—it is a thorny plant, and grows very thick with training, its appearance is more like what is called the Black thorn in England than any thing else I have seen. Another plant is used in the Midland States, called the Osage Orange, but is too delicate for our climate. The Basket Willow grows well on low lands, and can be made a first-rate fence by management; and where the ground is too wet for posts to stand, or other kinds of hedging plants to grow, it will flourish exceedingly well; and now, Mr. Chairman, having exhausted the subject, so far as my own limited knowledge of it extends, I give way to the other members of the club to state theirs.

MR. BOYCE said, as regards fencing he could say little, as he was obliged to be content with the common zigzag fence at present; he thought a stone fence the best where it could be had.

MR. MASSON said, he thought that Mr. Wade's plan would answer very well, as it could be made out of common timber; he was afraid that if the posts were made of hard wood they would rot soon. (Mr. Wade here stated, that good white oak posts would last nearly as long as cedar.) He (Mr. Masson) thought that the greater draw back to the board fences with a ditch on both sides was, that they took up too much ground, especially on dry land, which did not require ditches to carry off the water.

MR. BLACK said, he had little experience in fences in this country; he thought Mr. Wade's plan much superior to the common zigzag fence; as it would neither take up so much ground nor be such a harbor for weeds as the common kind;