

The above are a few of the many instances which might be adduced to show that man has exhibited a woeful lack of intelligence and judgment in destroying the woods which were so abundant when the country was discovered. In a comparatively few years he has wasted with a lavish prodigality Nature's slow production of hundreds of years. If great forests of useful and beautiful trees had been rare in this country they would have been husbanded with a care and forethought commensurate with their value; but because they have been so abundant and easy to convert into money, they have been destroyed with such an ignorance of Nature's processes, and with such a disregard of the rights of future generations, that the results are lamentable and little short of calamitous. Forests that should have been kept intact by a wise system of cutting out the larger growths and allowing the smaller ones to mature, have been depleted of everything that would do for timber, while the refuse, strewn everywhere, has fed the fires and doomed many a fine forest region to destruction.

There are a few forests left intact in the depths of the New Brunswick wilderness where lumbermen have not yet penetrated and which are yet unmarked by the dismal tokens of the fire scourge. A few of these it has been my good fortune to visit—near the headwaters of the numerous branches of the Tobique. What a delight it was to wander through these great natural parks, chiefly of hard or mixed woods, through which one might drive a team, and to look upon the perfectly rounded boles of birches, spruces, elms, beeches, and occasional pines, their tops reaching to the height of from seventy to one hundred feet.

Mingled with my feeling of admiration was one of regret that in this beautiful province of New Brunswick, once so nobly endowed in its luxuriance of forest wealth, which might have increased under wise management with successive generations, trees had been destroyed where they should have been cultivated. Our forefathers in the settlement of the country did much for which it is presumed we are sufficiently grateful; but would that they had left undone some things which were done! Forest destruction, however, was a part of the first settlers' work, and a necessary beginning to civilization.

But among the early settlers there were many who spared some of the forest trees and found comfort in their beauty and shade. They did not begrudge a few feet of soil to the rightful owners, nor treat the trees as enemies or encumbrances, to be rooted out and destroyed. Many of the noble elms that adorn the broad intervals of the St. John, Kennebecasis, and other rivers, show the wisdom and sense of beauty that distinguished the early settlers of these regions. The magnificent grove of red and white pines, on the grounds of Judge Wilkinson, on the south