

in any way. It would not be worth while introducing them here if they could not take care of themselves.

Of those left undisturbed where they were sown, I have not lost one; they have now had six summers' growth. I have just had some of them measured, so as to be certain of their size; the height of the four largest is as follows: fifteen feet and a half, fourteen feet and a half, fourteen feet, and twelve feet, and thick in proportion. Those have not been transplanted; now notice the difference between them and those that have been moved.

In the fall of 1875, when they were only one year old, one lot were transplanted, but the soil was not favorable and they have not done well, so far; however, they are beginning to recover. In the spring of 1876 I transplanted another lot; the best are about eight feet high: and another lot last spring, the tallest of which are about ten or eleven feet. All those trees are of the same age as the fifteen and fourteen feet trees, the difference in size results from the transplanting, wherefore it is much better to sow them at once where they are to remain. Plant them thick, as the wood of the young tree is rather soft, like that of our native butternut.

It is contrary to all preconceived ideas, even among those who handle timber every day, but nevertheless true, that the black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and the Canadian oak (*Quercus alba*) as a rule increase much more rapidly in growth than our pine and white spruce. I conclude, from counting the rings on the trees after they are cut down, and from watching the growth of the living trees, that black walnut and Canadian oak generally gain one inch in diameter in about three years and a half, while our spruce and pine take about double that time to accomplish the same result; this can easily be ascertained by counting and measuring the rings. Of course there will be exceptions, and it would not be fair to judge by those only; I speak of the average.

It is now time to say something of the profits, and I must be careful to avoid exaggeration. Judging by the growth of the living trees and rings of the timber when cut, I do not hesitate to say that a black walnut, under ordinary circumstances, at the age of seventy-five years, will have attained twenty-one inches in diameter and will contain at least fifty cubic feet of timber, the actual value of which is about one dollar per cubic foot. (See for prices the *Lumberman's Gazette*, published at Bay City, Michigan, the numbers of the 26th January, 2nd February, and 2nd March of this year.)

For how many such trees, judiciously planted, will there be comfortable room on one acre? It is difficult to find a regular plantation of any kind of trees of that diameter here, to help us towards a solution of the question, and the way in which trees are scattered in the forest and their irregular size leave but a vague impression on the mind, varying according to the personal experience of each. I am not ready to answer the question at present for want of full information, and will not venture a guess, but I do not feel the same hesitation where trees standing in one single row, with plenty of room on two sides, are concerned, in that case, trees twenty-one inches in diameter would not be too close, standing at eighteen feet from one another. Take a farm three acres wide, with a road across the width and a row of black walnuts of an average diameter of twenty-one inches on each side of the road, the trees eighteen feet distant from one another, you get sixty trees containing fifty cubic feet each, three thousand cubic feet, worth, at the present price, three thousand dollars.

But it will be safer to sow the black walnut in clumps, pretty close. They will protect one another when young, and, as they grow, they can be thinned gradually. Their culture will entail little trouble, apart from the preparation of the soil, and the sowing of the nut; the work of thinning will soon

repay itself with the timber removed. The better the soil, the quicker the growth. Such a valuable tree as the black walnut deserves to be well treated. If possible, find some shelter against the strongest prevailing winds for the young plantation, a belt of older trees, or a hill. They are rather soft, like our butternut; it is the only drawback I have found out so far, but not fatal. Even the youngest trees will get several branches torn off and very ugly wounds without dying; they are wonderfully hardy.

The value of these plantations will increase steadily from the day when they have taken root; they represent an ever-increasing marketable value long before the expiration of that period of twenty-five years which I have indicated—not as the limit of their growth; they will grow for centuries, but—as the period necessary to attain a profitable size, when they can be cut down without waste.

THE BUTTERNUT grows spontaneously here; its beautiful timber can be worked with as much ease as the softest pine; it ranks immediately after the black walnut, and is inferior to it only in the color of the wood, which is lighter. Rubbed with linseed oil, it takes the soft, rich hue of sandal wood, and if judiciously sawn, shows wonderful marks. I recommend strongly its culture, and will be glad to send nuts to those who will plant them, next fall, as we gather a large crop of them.

WHITE OAK.—The acorn ought to be sown as soon as possible after it drops, in the fall, as it loses its vitality rapidly; and to avoid the great check resulting from transplanting, it ought to be sown at once, if possible, where the tree is destined to remain. Its wood is tougher, and not so liable to break when young. I think it ought to grow with at least as much ease and rapidity as the black walnut; ours are rather behind, as they have been transplanted twice. The oak is so useful and valuable, and its culture so easy, that plantation of trees ought to contain a good proportion of oak, provided the soil be not too poor for it.

WHITE ELM.—This splendid tree recommends itself sufficiently by its beauty and usefulness to dispense me from dwelling at any length upon it; it grows rapidly in a deep, damp soil. I have not grown it from seed, but by taking up young trees from a low island, where they grow in abundance. It appears to bear transplanting better than the oak, walnut or maple, and can be moved safely at a much larger size than any of those trees.

MAPLE.—If you wish to raise a maple sugary with the smallest amount of expense and trouble, go to an old maple grove in the fall; the ground is covered with a thick carpet of seedlings. After rain, you can pull them up by hand with the greatest ease, without breaking any of their small roots, if you are moderately careful. Plant them at once in a corner of your garden, about two feet apart each way; weed during the first two summers with a light hoe. We found, after four years, the trees fit for transplanting, about five feet high, and the thickness of a man's thumb. As the ground was mellow and free, we took them up with little damage. Of course, there is still the objection of transplanting, but in a less degree than when you seek your maples in the woods, where their roots are mixed up with those of other trees, stumps and stones, and must be more or less torn up with violence. There is an immense difference in the comparative cost of the two processes, which will tell upon the hundreds of trees required to make a sugary worth working. Those small trees never fail (at all events, none of those we transplanted did), while much larger trees, more injured in the moving from the forest, die in great numbers, and the survivors are seriously checked. I have been told that the seedlings would overtake them, but have not yet had time to verify that statement. Maples will begin to yield a reasonable quan-