

of stately elms is grand, especially if it be very long and very straight; but maples are more suitable for the modest pathway that leads to a village school. Whether in clumps, in rows, or as single trees, the maples are beautiful; and equally so on rounded hill tops, on gentle slopes, or on the level ground. They are easily transplanted, they grow quickly, and the grass will flourish under their shade. The red maple, prized for its rich coloring, both in spring and fall, will succeed in any soil that is neither very wet or very dry; the rock maple, scarcely inferior in form and color, likes the dry and shallow soil of the hillside; while the silver maple, the most graceful of the three, prefers the rich flat land of river bottoms.

The beech is seldom seen transplanted; perhaps because it is so hard to manage. It is certainly not lacking in beauty. White, of Selborne, speaks of it as the most lovely of all forest trees. And who does not know the delights of a beech grove in early spring, with the fresh odor of the bursting buds, or in autumn days, when the warm sunshine pours through the transparent yellow of the leaves and makes a richer sunlight in its shade. No grass grows under a beech tree. For this reason, and because it needs no great depth of soil, the beech is best adapted for planting in rocky places where few other trees would thrive.

In damp, rich soils, either the black or the white ash will make a handsome tree. Their chief fault is that they are slow to put forth their leaves in the spring and lose them early in autumn; but their rapid growth, and the rich, dark green of their foliage, are strong points in their favor.

Some of the birches do well in a shallow soil; though the most desirable of them, the yellow birch and the black or cherry birch, need a deep, cool soil for their best development. The black birch grows very fast, and is particularly noted for the beauty of its leaves. The yellow birch throws out its branches regularly, forming a magnificent head, and, like the oak or the butternut, should be grown singly and where it will have plenty of space.

Most of our native conifers can be used to advantage in some places. The white spruce and cedar are best for hedges and screens. A young fir is pretty when standing alone, in the form of a slender cone, with its lower branches resting on the ground. The pines are very desirable, but rather difficult to grow. The *hacmatac* has received more favor than its straggling growth and scanty foliage would seem to merit; and now that it is attacked by the larvæ of the larch sawfly, it must cease to be regarded as an ornamental tree.

Among introduced trees, the lime, the horse chest-

nut, the English ash, the locust and the laburnum are valuable as single specimens. The poplars generally are rapid growers, but do not live long. The Balm of Gilead and the English white poplar throw up suckers from the root. The same objection applies to the clammy locust, and to such shrubs as barberry, spiræa and the hardy roses.

There is one thing which needs to be insisted upon, even at the risk of seeming to overstate it. Next to the cutting away of trees, the worst vandalism is what is called trimming them up. Regarded as an object of ornament in the landscape, the main point of beauty in a tree is at its base. In a thick forest growth, the lower branches perish from natural causes, but it does not follow that a naked trunk and spreading top is the perfect form of a tree. And, if it were, the eye demands not that the tree should be perfect in itself, though that is always desirable, but that it should add an element of beauty to the place in which it stands. The ardent lover of trees will watch their growing tops, observe their changing greens in light and shade, and admire their graceful forms against the sky. So seen they have a beauty all their own. Yet they are not, like the clouds, a separate picture, but belong to the ground and must be connected with it. Where trees surround an open space, or where the edge of the forest comes up to the school grounds, encourage the growth of shrubs, and under shrubs to form from grass to tree tops a solid wall of green. Without much encroaching upon the open space, this connecting strip of leafage between grass and trees may be made a feature of special interest. It would be a suitable place for all the spring and summer flowering shrubs, from the May-pear to the meadow-sweet, to be followed by the tallest of the golden rods and the best of the native asters, so that every week from May to September will furnish something new. The only care needed would be to keep out unsightly and weedy plants, and to see that the stronger trees and bushes did not crowd out the others, or spread beyond their bounds. It is best, of course, to select shrubs that do not "run" and are easily kept in shape. Such are the lilacs and syringas, among hardy cultivated shrubs, with thorns and shadbush and wild cherries from the woods, and the viburnums, witch-hazel and mountain ash.

If there is a fence between the school ground and the road, make the best of it. It must not, of course, be a shelter for thistles and other noxious weeds. Whether it be a rough stone wall, a pole fence, or something more artificial and more expensive, the best way to treat it is to cover it up with green. Shrubby may be set on both sides of the fence,