

age—because the atmosphere drawn up from these—the evaporation—is drier than the clouds above, and instead of occasioning precipitation by joining with the clouds above, it occasions the opposite, and if there be a cloud above it would dissipate it and change it into the atmosphere so that the cloud would not be seen. That is the result of the fact that the air holds, when heated, a certain amount of water, which when cold it cannot hold. When the cold air from below rises to the heated air above, the heated air above containing moisture, that moisture must to a certain extent fall out, that is, as we are well aware, precipitation.

Now, I would like to suggest to you what I have observed in my summer journey this year to England and through the Highlands. We are all aware that in England the fields will give forth, in grass and grain, a far superior return to what they do in Canada. I was astonished in hearing the average of grain and noticing the average of grass produced by these English acres. It is something infinitely superior to ours. I passed through that country, going up and down through England and Scotland, and crossing the country again, till I should think I covered about two thousand miles in these examinations; and everywhere I found that that country, being subdivided principally by hedges, and here and there always having a quantity of trees interspersing, and every here and there also a plantation or a pleasant little bit of wood or copse—I found that wherever I passed through that country it may be said to be sheltered; and I take it that that shelter which they preserve there is the very thing which, joining their geographical position, gives them the large crops they enjoy.

I would give you my own experience to bear out this idea. Having been an old clearer of the forest myself for many years, and knowing many townships formerly with woods which are now in farms, I have invariably found that when we went to clear the forest the land was full of little rivers, springs, creeks—full of moisture. You could get water at two or three feet. Afterwards, when we had half cleared the forest, a good many small creeks had disappeared; you would have to go down fifteen, perhaps twenty feet, for water; and when we had cleared the township too much, or again, when leaving it to about one-tenth in wood, by that time I have known us have to go fifty or sixty feet for water; our little saw-mills had long stopped; and where we formerly had pleasant little creeks every here and there most of the summer, they were dry, sun-baked and muddy.

And then I will point out to you a remarkable thing which I have noticed in many parts, and which has a close bearing on our fruit-growing ideas, and that is, that when at the first commencement of clearing we could plant a tree anywhere and it would grow, but when we cleared a good deal of the township we found that we might plant a good many trees along the roadside, and the ground seemed hard, its natural power of growth was gone, and we would lose a good many out of the trees we planted alone, where as formerly we would certainly not have lost one.

In going throughout England and Scotland I went to three large forests—the Forest of Dean, the New Forest, and the Forest of Windsor. Now they are in England, where land is dear, where land is valuable, every corner; nevertheless they perpetuate these three large forests, having, as well as I remember, from 50,000 to 100,000 acres of forest in each. They will not cut them down. They are kept inviolable; and when you are in London, in the greatest metropolis in the world, surrounded on every side by noise of business and multiplicity of business affairs, you are nevertheless within two hours of forests—two hours travel by railway—where you may wander for days and never imagine that there was such a thing as a town, or such a thing as a farm.

We pass on to Scotland again. There I found immense forests covering the country in all directions, and I found that the great Scottish hills, great barren wildernesses and precipices, are being continually covered to-day with young trees by the forests they are there planting in all directions, until, as you pass along by railway, you see the great mountain side—which you could notice has been a mountain side bleak and barren for centuries—you will see half of that covered with beautiful young trees perhaps two or three feet high. You go on through and you will find that they are taking great care of their forests, perpetuating them in all directions; and they find profit in it.

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