

The plant meets its conditions by *succumbing to them* (that is, by dying), or by *adapting itself to them*.

The tree *meets the cold* by ceasing its active growth, hardening its tissues, dropping its leaves. Many herbaceous or soft-stemmed plants meet the cold by dying to the ground and withdrawing all life into the root parts. Some plants meet the cold by dying outright and providing abundance of seeds to perpetuate the kind next season.



FIG. 4.—THE REACH FOR LIGHT OF A TREE ON THE EDGE OF A WOOD.

Plants *adapt themselves to light* by growing toward it (Fig. 4); or by hanging their leaves in such position that they catch the light; or, in less sunny places, by expanding their leaf surface, or by greatly lengthening their stems so as to overtop their fellows, as do trees and vines.

The adaptations of plants will afford a fertile field of study as we proceed.