

There is Oak, too, (*Quercus tinctoria*), red (*Q. rubra*), and white (*Q. alba*), the latter little inferior to British heart of Oak, and not far off in feet in diameter. This tree, as much at home with us as with Canadians, is said to be sometimes 21 feet round! in Western Canada.

Then we have Occidental Plane, or Button Wood, 4 feet through; Tulip tree or White Wood,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and Bass wood or American Elm, more than 2 feet, all excellent for cabinet and joiners' work, though unfit to bear exposure to weather.

Add to these numerous specimens of the fair growth of American Chestnut, Hickories, Maples, Beech, Birch, Hornbeam, Hemlock, Spruce, Tamarac, or American Larch, and he who would thoroughly understand the nature of Canadian timber has a field for serious study hitherto unexampled: how serious in a mercantile point of view, may be gathered from the fact, that Canada exports annually about 30,000,000 cubic feet of timber in the rough state, and about 400,000,000 feet, board measure, of sawn timber. The revenue derived by the Province, during 1860, for timber cut in the forests, amounted to about \$500,000." It appears that of the 60 or 70 varieties of woods in its forests, there are usually only five or six kinds which go to make up these exports so vast in quantity; the remaining fifty or sixty timber trees are left to perish or are burned as a nuisance, to get them out of the way. The Commissioners truly observe that by showing in the markets of the world, that it has these valuable woods, and can furnish them at unprecedentedly low prices, will secure additional purchasers, a result that the capital display in the Exhibition building is admirably adapted to secure. The Commissioners from the Colony state that in extent, and in the value and variety of its woods, the great forests of deciduous trees of North America surpass all others; the most remarkable of this great mixed forest being that grown in the valley of the St. Lawrence. The western coasts, in high latitudes, furnish only or chiefly the Coniferæ. High summer temperature and abundant summer rains, are, unquestionably, the conditions necessary to produce the deciduous forest trees. Western coasts, in high latitudes, have the necessary moisture, but not the high summer temperature; Western prairies, east of the Mississippi, and the vast deserts west of it, have summer heat but not moisture; hence the absence of all trees in one region, and of the deciduous trees in the other. In this country we have probably all the conditions, except time, under which the Canadian timber has been produced.

All the hardy trees belonging to the Canadian Exhibition are capitally shown, by the production of both "rounds" or transverse sections, and planks, so that the grain may be examined in each direction; and we only do justice to the Canadian Commissioners when we point out the

skill of their arrangements; not forgetting their excellent Catalogue, which has afforded us some part of the information now laid before our readers.

In the other North American colonies the timber exhibited is merely in the form of hand specimens if produced at all. That of Vancouver and British Columbia is still at sea, with the exception of a few examples from the former, among which will be found the unsurpassable Douglass Fir, to which we have lately drawn attention on several occasions, and the Cypress of the settlers, a beautiful white wood would be produced, we believe, by *Thuja gigantea* (*Libocedrus decurvens*.)

#### OPINION OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Subjoined is a circular letter addressed through Dr. Lindley, Colonial Superintendent, to the several Colonial Commissioners, by His Grace the Colonial Secretary, which will be read with interest.

"DOWNING STREET, 4th June, 1862.

"My dear Dr. Lindley, Now that the Colonial Department of the International Exhibition is very nearly completed, I must express to you, first, my thanks for the trouble you took in showing me the various productions, and, next, my extreme admiration of the spirited and successful manner in which the colonies, with scarcely an exception, have responded to the invitation of the Commissioners to send specimens of their natural produce and industry for the information, and, I may well add, the instruction of the nations of Europe.

"It is impossible that such a display of what the Colonial portions of the British empire can produce should be without a very material influence upon the future prospects and prosperity of each of them. In gold and other metals, in cereal produce, in timber, in wool, above all in cotton, the visitors of the International Exhibition will find the English colonies eclipsing all competitors; and I am much mistaken if foreigners will not find in the department allotted to them more to excite their admiration and wonder than in the more showy and artistic displays, which do so much credit to the taste, energy and manufacturing power of the mother country.

"I assure you that not only officially but individually I am delighted at the position before the world which the Colonies have assumed at the Exhibition.

"I am, my dear Dr. Lindley,

"Your's very sincerely,

"NEWCASTLE."

The seed of winter wheat retains its germinating powers from three to four years, of spring wheat two to three years, oats two years, beet-root six to seven, swedes five to six.