

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. 1.

Halifax, N. S. Thursday, October 1, 1863.

No. 15.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR

IN ADVANCE, BY

W. Cunnabell, 155 Upper Water Street.

Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the office of publication.

HALIFAX, N. S. OCTOBER 1, 1863.

In the article on Minerals, in our last number, there is a typographical error in naming Galena *Sulphurite* of Lead. Read *Sulphuret* of Lead.

THE FORESTS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Our forests are far below comparison with the extensive forest lands of Canada and New Brunswick. Neither can we equal the large sized pine of these provinces—especially the latter. But the *quality* of our timber is equally as good, some say superior, being closer in the grain, and well adapted for the manufacture of deals, battens and planks.

The trees important to our commerce, manufactures and ship-building are comprised under the two denominations of *hard* and *soft* woods.

Of the former the most useful are the white and black sugar maples, the white or soft maple, rock maple, the red and striped maples, the mountain maple, the white and the black or swamp ash, the elm, the white and red beech, used for treenails, carpenters' tools, &c, red oak, serviceable for wheel-spokes and general use, the white and black oak, the hazel, the yellow, black, white, canoe, or poplar leaved birch. Of these the rock maple may be classed in the first rank, from the superior quality of its timber. There is a beautiful variety called bird's-eye maple, much used in the manufacture of furniture. The ash is a valuable wood; durable, flexible, and free from knots. The white ash is useful for making farming tools; the yellow and black ash for fences and basket making.

The birch woods are used in ship-building, and for making carriages and furniture. The black birch, when polished, resembles mahogany; and the outside bark of the white birch is used by the

Indians for covering their canoes and wigwams.

Of the soft woods the most important are the white, yellow and red pine; the hemlock, the black, red, and white spruce, the fir, and the haematac. The other species are of little value.

The black cherry tree and the sarsaparilla are esteemed for their medicinal properties.

Specimens of eighty three varieties of woods, indigenous to Nova Scotia, were forwarded to the International Exhibition, by Mr. Amos Fales jr. of Wilnot; all remarkable for durability and beauty, and each accompanied by the peculiar leaf or cone of the tree. Of these we may notice the following in particular:—

White poplar, used for chair bottoms and carriage seats; balsam of Peru, useful for ornament and shade. Its buds are considered medicinal. Horn beam, a hard tough wood, used for rake-teeth, &c. Wild and black cherry, useful for cabinet manufacture; red and white willow, used for making charcoal; haematac or juniper, durable and adapted for ship-building; yellow pine, excellent for boards and planks; white cedar, excellent for durable fencing, and for the manufacture of musical instruments; hemlock, timber durable, bark used for tanning; white fir and silver fir, wood used for timber, boards and fencing; white spruce, the timber most valuable for the manufacture of deals.

The fruit trees will be noticed in a future article on Horticulture.

We have several varieties of ornamental trees—the sumach, wild pear, rowan or mountain ash, the wild hawthorn, wild red cherry, willow, the aspen, the tree poplar, and white leaved poplar.

There are many wild plants in Nova Scotia, bearing beautiful flowers. The pond lily is one of them, which is also remarkable for its fragrance; the Indian cup, the wild rose, Solomon's seal, the pigeon berry, the tree gooseberry, Indian hemp, medlar or wild pear, starflower, violet, and the fragrant Mayflower, the floral Emblem of our Country.

The principal *fruit-bearing* plants are the strawberry, raspberry, blackberry,

blueberry, whortleberry or huckleberry, and the cranberry. All existing in the greatest abundance.

THE BOY FARMERS.—A Maine paper tells a good story of two boys, one thirteen, and the other eleven, who on account of the sickness of their father were left to work on the farm. They thoroughly plowed and crossplowed three acres of rather rough ground, which they sowed, and then harrowed it three times over. They also assisted in clearing one acre of new land, which was sown with wheat. It grew well, especially that first sown, but at harvest time the father being still sick, there was none to gather the grain but these two little lads. Having neither strength nor skill to use the cradle, they grasped the sickle with resolute hand, and reaping what they could each day, persevered until the whole four acres were thus harvested by them alone. The produce of this crop would command in market \$135, and they did a good deal of business on the farm besides. This shows what boys can do if they really set about it, and make work of work, and play of play—not trying to do both at once.

TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Those who have not as yet conformed to our terms, will oblige by doing so without further delay—as our preparatory outlay has been considerable, and the publishing expenses, which are weekly incurred, render the required advance indispensable. Small sums that cannot be remitted in paper currency may be sent in postage stamps.

It has been suggested, that if the *Miscellany* was published at a later period of the week, it would be more accommodating to subscribers generally who receive their papers by mail; we have therefore concluded to issue the succeeding numbers on *Thursday*, instead of *Tuesday*.

We would also state here, that although the subscription list is so far encouraging, an additional number of subscribers is still requisite to enable us to carry out several contemplated improvements; and if each of our readers could send to the office of publication, or introduce to the nearest agent, one new subscriber, it would contribute materially towards that object.