



A MAJESTIC ELM—THE NOBLEST OF OUR TREES.

heads and rise again as if in conscious adoration of their Maker. The forms of trees, the ever varying play of light and shadow in their foliage have long been studies of painters and naturalists. Each species has distinguishing marks. "Some ascend vertically, and having arrived at a certain height, fork off in tiers, and send out their branches horizontally, like an apple tree ; or incline them towards the earth, like a fir tree ; some hollow them in the form of a cup, like the sassafras ; some round them into the shape of a mushroom, like the pine ; some straighten them into a pyramid, like the Lombardy poplar, or suffer them to float at the bidding of the winds, like the birch."

There are subtle expressions in

trees, as cheerfulness, gloom, rudeness, awkwardness, and grief. What could be more graceful than some willows and elms ? or more prim than spruces ? or more formal than the ash ? or more majestic than the oak ? Some stand and stiffly defy the storms, while others find security in bending to the gale. What is warmer looking in early spring than the deep-blossomed red-maple, or the rich magnolia ? No wonder that in some ages trees were worshipped, for they seem like creatures with souls finding in us a sympathetic chord.

" Away to the trees then let us go
For it matters not whether there's rain
or snow,
They wait for us."

The attractiveness of village, town or city is greatly increased by trees