

River's Purple-leaved Beech.

The accompanying illustration represents one of those very handsome trees, the Purple-leaved Beech. There are but few of these trees yet to be seen of any size on this continent, although they appear to answer well here. It is only within recent years that they have been introduced among the fine lawns and forests of England. No tree astonished us so much when in England; in our youth we had not seen them, but they had recently been planted and had made a very large growth. The bright rich purple color of the leaves made a very grand and pleasing contrast when seen among other trees. Gentlemen who are planting ornamental trees would not have a complete collection without one or more of these. There are two varieties. Those grown in England were tall, handsome trees; the cut represents one of a denser foliage. Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, N. Y., have a fine collection of these trees.

The Potato Bug.

In some parts of Canada they have not the same practical knowledge of the potato bug that we have been favored with in the western section. A few hints may be useful to those in the eastern part of the country. It is not the old striped bugs that devour the leaves, and thus prevent the growth of the tubers; it is the young brood that do the mischief. Kill the old ones wherever you see them; in killing them you prevent the propagation of thousands of devourers. As soon as the first of the young ones makes its appearance, sprinkle with Paris green, a teaspoonful to a gallon of water. We have proved it to be an unfailing remedy. A second brood may, it is said, be propagated, and if so, it will require another application of the dose.

Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, says 1 lb. of London purple, dissolved in 100 gallons of water, is an effective poison for potato bugs, canker worms, leaf rollers, and all leaf-eating insects. We have had no experience with it and still rely on Paris green, until it is further tested.

ASHES.—In nearly all soils ashes are beneficial. Their action is manifold; they supply to plants inorganic elements which they require; they neutralize acids; they act chemically as solvents upon other salts in the soil. They are more beneficial on sandy and gravelly soils than in clay. For plants that contain a large percentage of potash and phosphoric acid, as carrots, turnips, potatoes and cabbage, ashes are essential manure.

To Colman's Rural World, O. M. writes, saying: Fifteen years ago to-day I received around a bundle of plants a few golden willow ties, which I carelessly stuck in the ground, and although they had no cultivation, they are to-day thirty feet high and as large round as a man's body.

The Hay Harvest.

Whoever secures his hay in June will find his grain not only in its better quality, but the chances are that he will have another crop in August, the quality of which will be superior to the first. Grass that is cut just as it is coming into blossom, starts up again with great vigor, apparently determined to accomplish its great mission of producing seed. The second crop, however, has more foliage and less stems than the first, and in this respect is better, for the leaves contain more nutriment than the stems. Comparatively few farmers have appreciated rowen hay. Very many know nothing about its value, as they have harvested their first crop so late that the roots had little time and less inclination to pro-

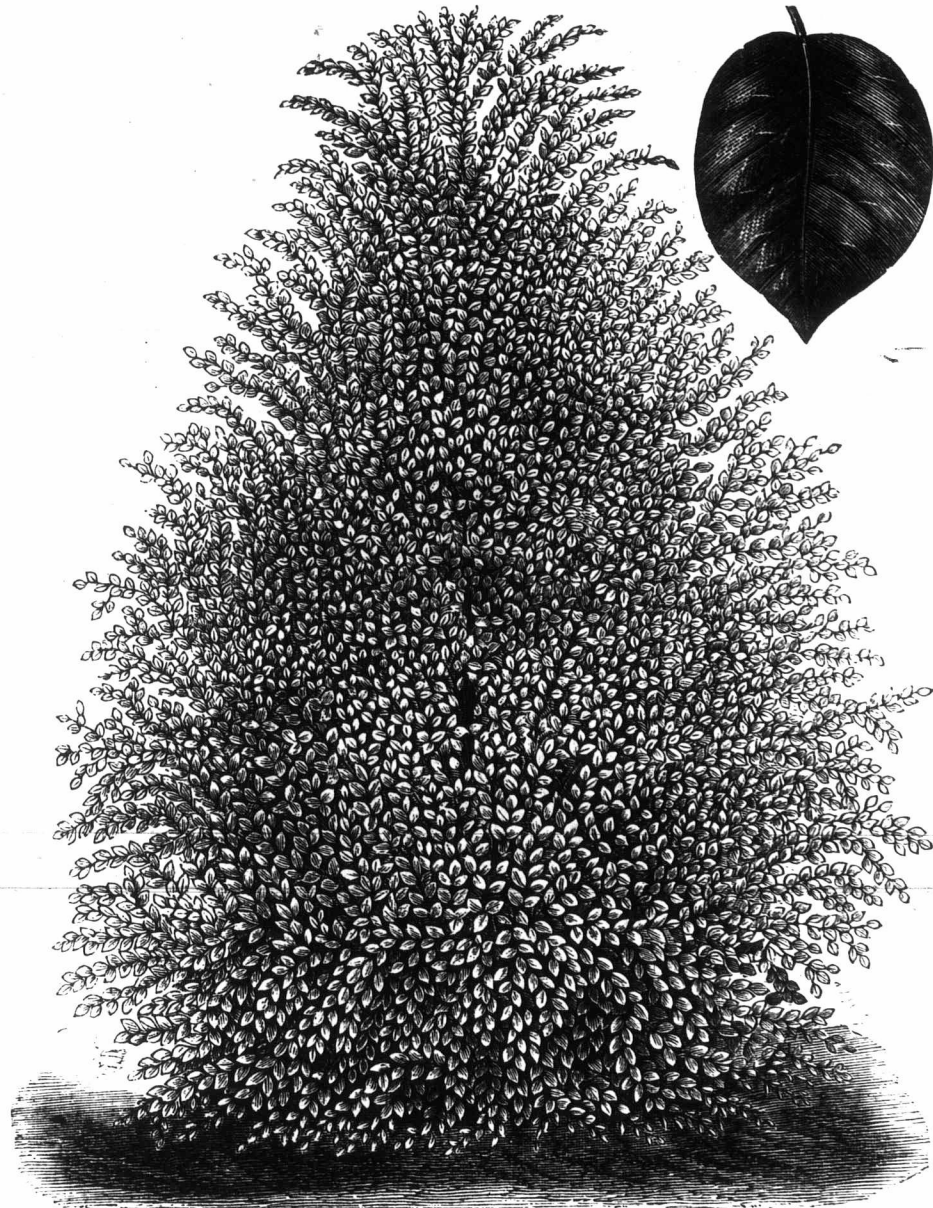
amount of land. A recent article in the Rural New-Yorker expresses our ideas on this point: "In the good old times, before mowing-machines, tedders, and horse-rakes, it would have been cruelty to talk about two or three hayings in one Summer. But now that the handling of the grass is reduced to so small an item, there is no difficulty about it, if we can only raise the grass."

To establish the custom of cutting two crops of hay each year, and then leaving an aftermath sufficient for the protection and invigoration of the roots, it only requires a few progressive farmers in a town to lead the van. The others will slowly, but surely, fall into line. They may say some sharp things, may talk about Neighbor A.'s verdancy in cutting green grass, and call Neighbor B. a blockhead, and Neighbor C. a calf, but there is nothing so successful as success, and when they see the barns of A., B., and C. overflowing with hay in the Fall, and their stock in the Spring as fat as Pharaoh's fat kine, they will be stimulated to start the mowing-machine the next Summer pretty soon after they hear its click in the fields of their neighbors. The early harvester of hay need not say a word to his neighbors. If he only sets them a good example, shows them increased crops and improved stock, there are few so dull or stubborn that they will not appreciate the silent influence.

Another good result which we anticipate from the early harvesting of hay is the stocking of land with a greater variety of grasses, and especially with those that start early and grow late. One of the greatest and most common mistakes of the majority of farmers is that they sow only two or three varieties of grass-seed. This is a great advance on the practice of our grandfathers, who sowed no seed at all, considering grass a spontaneous production that needed no artificial cultivation. Our fathers learned that it was better to anticipate nature, and sow a little timothy and clover, and in moist soils a little red-top. It remains for us to improve on this practice, and sow at least a half dozen, possibly a dozen, varieties. This is the teaching of the Great Husbandman, for on a square rod of an old pasture or meadow there can generally be found a score of different species of grass growing together. An observing acquaintance last Summer sat down on a cock of hay, and from his well-cushioned seat selected 26 varieties of grass, the

product of about a square rod. These different grasses doubtless draw on the soil for different kinds of nutriment, and likewise furnish a variety of food for stock. Timothy may make the best of hay, though we doubt it, but it is not worth while to restrict one's self to timothy when there are so many other kinds of grass evidently intended to grow together. Orchard grass will furnish nearly twice as much hay, and of better quality, certainly if with it is sown a liberal allowance of Kentucky blue, meadow fescue, perennial rye, tall oat and red clover. These six varieties, President Flint recommends to be sown together for an early crop, as they are ready for harvesting about the same time, in June. For a later crop he recommends timothy, red-top, English bent, and clover, and for a permanent pasture a still greater variety, maturing at different periods through the whole season. If we sow only two or three varieties, nature, or, more properly, Providence, supplements our neglect by slowly bringing in others, but there is great gain in anticipating this natural increase.

Particular care should be taken not to expose hay too much to the sun and winds,



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duce another. There has also been a very general impression that two crops exhausted the land, and that it was better to let the aftermath remain as a protection to the roots of the grasses and as a fertilizer. The truth is that two crops, cut before the seed is formed, are less exhaustive than one cut so late that the seed is matured, and as for the fertilizing effects of the aftermath, if the first crop is cut in June, and the land is in good condition, the second growth will be so luxuriant that its cutting will be a necessity, as otherwise it will smother the roots. We like a good allowance of aftermath as a protection to the roots, and especially to elaborate some sap for their invigoration, but if the first crop is cut in June and the second in August, the third growth will be ample for these purposes.

This early harvesting of the hay crop is likely to work a revolution in the management of mowing lots. The early harvest will necessitate also a late second harvest, and both together will necessitate more top-dressing, so that when the custom is well established of starting the mowing-machine early, we look to see twice as much grass cut and twice as much stock carried on the same

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