

A MADAGASCAR FOREST.

HOW powerless one feels when one attempts to describe the wonderfully varied and almost endless forms of vegetable life that pass their days in the great eastern front of Madagascar! I have heard the forests spoken of as monotonous. Nothing could be further from the truth. An English wood, consisting entirely of oak or fir trees, might be called monotonous, but the term can surely not be applied to a forest in which you rarely meet with two adjoining trees or shrubs of the same species. If one thinks merely of tree trunks and green leaves in the abstract, then perhaps it may be called monotonous, but even in this monotony there is infinite variety. Why, no two leaves are alike, they are of all possible shapes, sizes, and tints; and as for the tree trunks, they all differ from one another in girth, and in the guests which partake of their hospitality. Of ferns that live on the trunks of trees I know at least fifty different species, and even this, of course, does not exhaust the list. Of orchids there are probably a greater number even than ferns. Very frequently there may be seen a shrub growing out of a tree trunk, which seems to form part and parcel of the tree itself; but when its leaves are examined they are found to be quite different from those of its host. It is a Loranthus of which there are about a dozen species, or a Viscum, of which there are probably more. It is a veritable parasite, having pushed its roots right into the tree for the purpose of sucking its juices, and thus flourishes at the expense of its neighbor. A species of lichen, the "Old Man Beard," hangs very abundantly from many of the trees. Other lichens, too, of various hues; fungi, and delicate little mosses, the life of each one of which would be an interesting study in itself, also play a prominent part in this heterogeneous community.

NATURAL WOODS IN CARRIAGE BUILDING.

THE popularity of the natural wood finish, says The Hub, suggests the propriety of a departure from oak and ash in bodies, as has been the rule for several years past. There are many other rich woods which could be used to an advantage, and thus relieve the monotony, now so marked, due to the general use of light woods. Among the woods that might be used to advantage are beech and maple, for light colors. The beech has a particularly rich grain when quarter sawed: it is dense and durable, and not necessarily expensive. Maple, both hard and soft, has a rich grain; it surfaces well, is free from the absorbent

qualities of ash, and can be procured in abundance.

There are dark woods which possess richly mottled grainings, and which are all that can be desired for carriage panels. These are butternut, black walnut, redwood and mahogany. Butternut has a rich light brown color, mottled by light and dark stripes, is easily worked, has good surfacing qualities, fills readily and brightens richly when varnished. Black walnut is too well known to require special mention, and now that it has ceased to be popular among cabinetmakers, the price puts it within the reach of manufacturers. Redwood is a wonderfully rich wood, and shows a delightful variety of surfaces and shades. It is one of the most durable woods that grow, and as it darkens by age, it grows richer as it grows older. Mahogany is the great leader among red woods. It can be used to an advantage, although no richer nor better than redwood.

The use of brown and red woods would greatly relieve the monotony, and tend to further popularize natural wood finish.

KEEP YOUR MILL CLEAN.

THERE is no good reason why a saw mill should not be kept in a reasonably tidy condition as well as other manufacturing establishments, says the Lumberman's Review. What is known as mill refuse is no longer a source of serious trouble to the practical mill man. If you have not already done so, provide a large grate surface under your boiler, feed it with refuse direct from the saws or planers, by modern and expensive appliances, and thus remove an eye sore from your mill yard, increase your heat and power, reduce operating expenses, keep your mill approaches neat and clean, in fact, kill a half dozen birds with one stone. If you can't use up all your mill refuse, buy a refuse burner and make a clean job of it.

THE MAGNOLIA METAL COMPANY'S ENORMOUS SALES.

The business of the Magnolia Metal Co., in its sales of magnolia metal has increased 12 from January, 1893, to January, 1894, over the sales of the previous year, notwithstanding one of the greatest panics that the world has ever seen, passed over the country during that time. The factory of this company has never closed down for one day on account of the panic, and a part of the time it had to run all night in order to keep up to the company's orders for magnolia metal. The outlook for the coming year of 1894 is very bright, and the Magnolia Metal Company anticipates an increase of at least 50% over the year 1893.

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