

monarchs of the forests, the fir tree, rising occasionally to the height of three hundred feet, and the cedar measuring a circumference of forty feet; but how their pride and glory were forgotten in the presence of the famous Big Trees of California! Fancy a tree which required five men twenty-five days to fell it, boring it off with pump-augers, and then taking three days to make the proud thing fall after it had been severed from the trunk, such was the breadth of its base.

The late Bishop Kingsley computed that on the stump of that tree a house could be built for a newly-married couple, giving them a good-sized parlour, dining-room, kitchen, two bedrooms, a pantry, two clothes presses, and then have a little room to spare. Think of the hollow trunk of another tree through which you could ride on horseback without endangering your silk hat; or another so large that you could drive a stage coach, filled with passengers inside and outside, for nearly the same distance through its trunk. Imagine, if you can, the size of one of these fathers of the forest when it contains more than one-half a million feet of sound inch lumber; or another which would make a thousand cords of four-foot wood, with a hundred cords of bark, which, burning at the rate of a cord a month, would last a frugal household just ninety-one years. There are several groves of these mammoth trees. There are three Mariposa groves within two miles of each other. One of these groves contains eighty-six trees.

The Tuolumne grove contains ten trees. The Calaveras grove has over ninety mammoth trees, and one of the fallen trees must have been four hundred and fifty feet high, and forty feet in diameter.

The *Big Tree* is a *Sequoia* related to the closest manner to the redwood. Dr. Seeman called it the *Sequoia Gigantea*, and it bears that name with botanists, though Prof. Lindley gave it the name *Wellingtonia Gigantea*.

These mammoth trees grow in a deep fertile soil, and stand in the midst of other trees which would be considered giants if set down among the trees of our forests. What a new idea of the magnificence of nature one gets as he glances at one of these immense trunks, and then looks up and up to try to comprehend their height. Sublime sight! Each tree fills you with wonder as you gaze upon it. These trees measure from seventy to a hundred feet in circumference. The bark is spongy, is formed in layers, reddish-brown in colour, and very thick, often measuring not less than eighteen inches. The wood is soft, elastic, straight-grained, light when dry, and of a bright cinnamon brown colour,