

800 years ago, he abandoned the military for the monastic life. The most famous, however, of such trees is that at Karasaki on the shore of Lake Biwa, which is of great unknown age, and hence very sacred. The trunk has a circumference of 37 feet and gives off nearly 400 branches, the spread of which from east to west is 240 feet and from north to south 288 feet. There are many varieties of cedar, cypress, pine and fir, and the residences of foreigners in Yokahama are much beautified by well trimmed hedges and shrubberies.

Next to the conifers, the traveller's attention is arrested by the abundance of glossy leaved trees and shrubs, which present in summer a bright vigorous foliage, and which are chiefly evergreens. The camellias grow to considerable size, and blooming late in the year are a feature of the winter scenery. The cinnamons are represented by several species, the most important being *C. camphora*, which is widely distributed and of great economic value, as it grows to a large size, and yields wood very valuable for cabinet and box making, in addition to the camphor obtained by distillation. A camphor tree seen near a temple on the path from Hakone to Atami was found to have a circumference of fifty feet. It was centrally split and decayed, but was a majestic tree, and the priests stated its age to be some eight hundred years.

Keyaki (*Zelkova keaki*) was another large tree, yielding very valuable timber in demand for many purposes. At a new temple being built at Kyoto fine sticks of this wood had been seen, about four feet square, and the pillars supporting the roofs were of the same material. When new, the Japanese buildings exhibit very well the different beautiful woods used in their construction, but, not being varnished nor painted, all outside work soon becomes dingy from the effects of the weather.

A very remarkable tree is the Ichu, a member of the Taxaceæ or yew family, the scientific name being *Salisburia adiantifolia*, the specific name derived from the great resemblance of its leaves to those of the maiden-hair fern. It is a large tree of handsome growth and in autumn the leaves turn of a fine golden colour. It has probably been introduced into Japan, as the trees are usually near the temples. Good specimens were seen in Kyoto, etc., but the largest was at the Hachi-