

farm to supply trees and seeds, if no one else will go into the business; a practical demonstration is now all that is required to set tree growing going on a large scale.

REMINISCENCES OF MOBILE.

MR. EDITOR,—It was my privilege to pay a flying visit to Mobile, Alabama, in the last days of February, 1883, and it occurs to me that a brief description of what I saw at that time might be of interest to your readers.

The present population of Mobile is estimated at about thirty thousand, of which fully ten thousand are blacks. The general appearance of the city is not one of great enterprize and thrift; its buildings are not imposing, nor is there the stir and activity at the wharves which one sees in the cities of the north and west. The double row of earthworks on the landward side is still to be seen, though broken and worn by time, where the slaves toiled by night and by day until they died by hundreds from fatigue and exposure. The labor might have been spared, for the Northern army never stormed the ramparts. Admiral Farragut entered the harbour that was so securely fortified and filled with sunken torpedoes as to be thought impregnable, with his fleet one day, and the city was at the mercy of his guns.

The trees and plants that grow about this city, which by the way is one of the oldest on this continent, are particularly interesting to one whose life has been spent amidst the vegetation of Canada. Some of the grandest specimens of the *Magnolia grandiflora* are to be found on the shell-road just out of the city, where stands a grove of them, many of the specimens being fully eighty feet high, and supposed to be

not less than one hundred and fifty years old. I measured a few of these monarchs and found them from four to four and a half feet in diameter. Here, beneath their shadow, I found the beautiful *Magnolia glauca*, whose northern limit extends into New Jersey. A very noticeable feature in the woodland landscape at this season of the year is the *Ilex cassine*, covered with berries of brilliant red. The most common street tree is the Chinaberry, *Melia azadirach*, which has been introduced on account of the beauty and perfume of its flowers, but which at this season of the year is by no means of an attractive appearance, being disfigured by the masses of dried berries or seeds which remain upon it all winter. The Live Oak, *Quercus virens*, seems also to have been planted as a shade tree, at least some most magnificent specimens are to be found on the streets and in the suburbs. I paced the spread of one of them and found its branches extended over a diameter of twenty feet, with a circumference of over two hundred feet. What a grateful shade when the summer sun is in the zenith, but at the time I stood beneath its spreading branches admiring its magnificent proportions, a north-easterly wind was blowing and an overcoat was not uncomfortable. That the readers of your magazine may have some idea of the appearance of these fine oaks I send you a cut of one that stands not far from the residence of that eminent botanist who has done so much for the science of forestry in the Southern States, Doctor Charles Mohr, of Mobile. And should you ever visit this ancient city, especially if you desire to study the flora of this region, do not fail to make his acquaintance; you will find him a genial gentleman, who will take a pleasure in placing his vast stores of botanical knowledge at your command. The picture will also give you an idea