

trouble to contend with is the slug and thrip, which may be very easily kept under control by white hellebore or tobacco water. Although Rose culture is somewhat troublesome, you are amply remunerated for your pains. The Rose is a Rose, and it is not every shrub that is a Rose; and even when grown under adverse circumstances, it is yet a thing of beauty.

SIMON ROY.

Berlin, 17th Feb., 1885.

THE WILLOW.

P. E. BUCKE, OTTAWA, ONT.

In putting in a plea for growing the willow as a valuable and profitable addition to the industries of Ontario or the North-west, I feel that I am laying myself open to the censure of many individuals who perhaps have only partially looked into the subject. Any man who has a low lying swail of a few acres covered by a thick willow growth, which he has undertaken to clear up, will realize in this plant the fact that "it has come to stay," as our American neighbors term it.

The *Salix* family is one of the largest, if not the largest, of any of the vegetable kingdom. Loudon gives 282 species, 51 of these are credited to North America. The willow is found in every conceivable climate, extending from the tropics as far north as the Arctic Circle; it grows on all kinds of soil, from the banks of low stagnant pools to the highest elevations. The plants range from the tiniest osier to the majestic forest tree of six feet through. It would be rather a blot on creation if so large a portion of its wealth had been bestowed on such a widely-distributed product should it prove to be a useless article.

Many people do not plant trees because of the length of time it takes them to grow. This complaint cannot be brought against the *Salix alba*,

white willow of Huntingdon. Its growth, though not so rapid as the mushroom, or the historic gourd, which grew up in a night, is yet of sufficient rapidity to satisfy the most fastidious. In ten years from the cutting it will make a tree from nine to thirteen inches through, and from twenty-eight to thirty-five feet high. On the Western American prairies, where it is extensively grown, it is claimed to be the best tree for the early settlers. It is also claimed that it will reproduce itself with great rapidity from the stump, no matter how old the tree was when cut down. The wood is light, tough and elastic, easily worked, and makes valuable lasting timber; it splits freely, makes good sawn lumber when of sufficient size, and grows with a straight, tall stem when closely planted. It is used for tool handles, hoops, cooper work, &c.; the bark is employed for tanning and medicinal purposes, taking the place of Peruvian bark for intermittent fevers, the active principle being salicin. This tree should be largely cultivated in our North-west; being hardy and of rapid growth, it would prove very beneficial there both for timber and windbreaks. I would recommend it for planting between more durable and slower growing forest trees, or in plantations to take their place whilst they are coming forward.

The *Salix caprea* grows to a large size; the wood takes a fine polish; it is stated to be worth as much in the market as birch. Its bark is also used for tanning purposes.

Salix fragilis, or red wood willow, also attains to a good big tree; its timber is used for many purposes, and is valuable.

The willow chiefly employed for basket purposes in Europe is *Salix viminalis*. This variety is cultivated on low, level, moist soils. The planting should be made from cuttings,