

It did not fall to my lot to see many large trees, such as I had been in the habit of seeing in England, except in the public square of the pretty town of New Haven in the United States. I ought not to say that I was disappointed, as in the States and Canada, for many years past, the settlers and farmers have looked upon timber trees as their natural enemies, and have got rid of them by every means in their power. This wholesale destruction has been carried on to such an extent that good timber trees of commercial value can now only be found in places remote from civilization; that is to say in the primeval forests of the Dominion. Woods that we now import from our colonies and many foreign countries are really from wild or naturally grown trees that have matured without care or cultivation. Much of the timber I have seen growing in European and Canadian forests is of so inferior a quality as to be fit only for fuel, for which purpose a large proportion of it is really grown in various parts of Europe. Some of our British timber trees are partially cultivated and cared for; nowhere have I seen so good and fine an average of timber and ornamental trees as in England; they are here planted in parks, hedge-rows and on farms, sometimes singly, sometimes in well defined rows, sometimes in groups; but English trees are rarely planted in forests.

Planted in this open manner, they are fully under the influence of light and sunshine, storm and rain, and have the benefit of plenty of fresh air; they spread their limbs, they grow slowly, and their wood becomes hard and tough; on the other hand, trees which grow close together in forests get little sunshine and light on their trunks, little fresh air or the bracing influence of wind, rain, and storm.

I contend that with scientific forestry, timber trees can be cultivated and thereby improved in quality just as by scientific and careful cultivation flowers, fruits, vegetables, and all garden and farm produce can be improved and rendered more excellent, and therefore more valuable; the partial success that has followed partial cultivation, encourages us to believe, nay, assures us, that with better methods, better results will be obtained: *Arte natura durabit*.

The establishment of high schools and elementary Schools of Forestry in England and her colonies would render excellent service to landowners, as also to manufacturers requiring sound and fine woods for their work; nor would the general public fail to reap a benefit, since it would get good articles of British growth and manufacture, thus keeping the money of the country to pay its own rents, rates and taxes, instead of sending it away to pay those of other people who now profit by our distinct negligence in not turning to good account our manifold resources.

Having carefully read the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1885-86, as to the utility of Schools of Forestry, and the advantage of establishing one or more in England or Scotland, I was prepared to believe that great waste must occur, in forests and forest products, without careful and systematic management.

I was quite unprepared, however, to see and hear of wholesale and indiscriminate waste, probably as a sort of necessary preliminary sacrifice to the production of wood, but waste for all that. It may possibly be, that many trees left to themselves uncared for and uncultivated are fit for nothing but fuel; and it may be that trees fit only for cooking and warming purposes have their value, but all unnecessary waste should be avoided as a loss to the colony. It will be conceded at once that what may be a small individual loss, when multiplied ten thousand times, becomes a heavy national loss, and it is evident that the Dominion of Canada is at present suffering in this way.

In many parts the presence of trees seems to have been looked upon with as much dread as pestilence or famine, and to be got rid of at any cost, by felling, burning, blasting, rotting, &c.; and indeed there are districts which bear traces of a sort of hatred of trees, a hatred that leaves behind it scars, sores, and distortions on the face of the fair earth, tolerable to behold under the bright sun, but which must be gloomy, sad and forbidding in dull, rainy or foggy weather.