

the temperate and highly-cultivated parts of Europe, it is an important acquisition. Is it not important to us also? Surely it is. It may not, perchance, resist the rigors of our extreme northern winters, but over all the continent south of, say 38° or 30° lat. it will. It may stand at New York. The "Big Tree" grove stands at an elevation of five thousand feet above the sea level, and where they have snow for two months. A friend who resides within two and a half miles of the grove, says the soil is a sandy loam, moderately dry, and he thinks the tree will succeed in the soil and climate of Western New York. I trust it will; but taking its near relative, the *Sequoia* (*Taxodium*) *sempervirens*, as a guide, I do not entertain strong hopes. But what if it cannot be grown in New York or Pennsylvania, or in any part of New England, if it will, as it undoubtedly will, flourish in Virginia, Kentucky, and all the States south of 39° . If we fail with it in the North, our chivalrous, patriotic, tasteful brethren of the sunny South must take charge of the *Big Tree*. Let them plant it at once beside that loveliest of all evergreen trees on the earth, the *Magnolia grandiflora*, and they will have, side by side, the most gigantic and the most beautiful of trees—trees that in the heathen ages would have been deified. What, let me ask, is to become of this grove? Will the people of California, I mean, the government, guard it against destruction? The men who flock there as to all new countries, are too eager in search of wealth to bestow any thought upon trees, and it is greatly to be feared that unless some protecting power be thrown around it, the Big Tree grove will fall beneath the ruthless hand of speculation and improvement.

What a calamity this would be! These glorious *living* monuments, whose history dates so far back in the records of time! There are men in California, however, who do appreciate these trees, and we sincerely hope they will awaken public sentiment favourable to their preservation.

Now as to the name. I see you have adopted Lindley's view, that it is a *new* genus, and give his title "*Wellingtonia*." This may be correct, but I think otherwise. There

is no real ground for creating a generic distinction between this tree and the *sequoia sempervirens*.

It is true that they differ in foliage, that is, the foliage of a full-grown *S. gigantea* is different from the foliage of a full-grown *S. sempervirens*; but among the junipers, podocarps, and other families of evergreens, we see differences quite as strongly marked.

Then the cones are precisely alike, except in size; that of the *sempervirens* being about the size of a hickory nut, and that of the *gigantea*, as shown in your plate, about the size of a pullet's egg. The cones of both have the same persistent wedgelike scales, with a transverse depression on the outside: the seeds of both are the same in number, situation, and appearance, and the trees contain the same red colouring matter, which has given the name of "*Red wood*" to the *sempervirens*. For a time the absence of the male flowers prevented botanists from arriving at a complete decision; and when Dr. Lindley gave the name *Wellingtonia*, he had not seen them, or I believed he would never named it a new genus.

Last February Dr. Torrey received specimens of the male flowers from California, and these enabled him at once to place it without hesitation with the *sequoia*; both he and Professor Gray are agreed in this, and these two gentlemen, as you are aware, stand at the head of botanical science in this country. I see, too, that M. Decaisne, M. Carriere, and several other learned botanists, and arboriculturists reject the name *Wellingtonia*, and adopt that of *sequoia*. Let us do so in this country. We can afford to drop the name of *Wellingtonia*, and especially as the truth of science demands it.

HEDGE PLANT.—Now that some attention is being paid to the subject of good hedge plants, I would beg to suggest for trial by those experimenting, a native, which seems to have all the qualities of a good hedge plant, viz., *Zanthoxylum Americana* (prickly ash). This plant has quite a shrubby habit, and cattle do not browse upon it, at least so far as I have observed, nor do I think it throws up any suckers.—G., *Gall, Canada West.*—*Horticulturist*.