

met by the traveller as the *Larix Americana*—the Hacmatack of the Indians, and Tamarack of the Dutch. Botanists state that the Hacmatack grows in profusion in the North-eastern States and British America; but it prevails to a much greater extent in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is more frequently used in ship-building of Colonial vessels, as it is a "wood, hard, strong, and very durable," while the house of the settlers are almost entirely constructed of it. It is "not so easily ignited as most of the Pine tribe, but when once blazing, it burns with great briskness, giving out a fervent heat; it is therefore in great request for steam-boats and engines in Canada and the States.

It is the most durable wood to be found in British North America, equaling English oak or the far-famed teak. There is "no record of a vessel built of Hacmatack having been destroyed by dry-rot;" whilst in several cases, the oak, and other timber surrounding and immediately contiguous to it, has been found decayed. The tree attains a great age: Linnaeus states that species have been found more than four hundred years old. "Tiberius caused the Naumachiarian Bridge, constructed by Augustus, and afterwards burnt, to be rebuilt of larch-planks brought from Rhætia. painters, from the time of Pliny to that of Raphael, trusted their works to this wood, which the Roman

naturalists style '*immortale lignum*.' The Romans, when first acquainted with the larch (the hacmatack of the American continent), lost no time in bringing it from the Alps. Vitruvius bears evidence of its value as a building timber. Pliny says, 'This tree is the best of its kind that bears resin; it rots not but endures a long time.' And this assertion of Pliny is well borne out by the fact, that the immense floating palace, or ship, built of cypress and larch by the Emperor Trajan, as a summer residence on Lake Nesni, having been weighed up, the timber was found sound after fourteen years' immersion." The colonists are fortunate in having in such abundance the favourite timber of the Romans.

Where the forests have been felled by the axe of the pioneer, these places are called, in Provincial phraseology, 'Clearing;' and as the locations where now are to be found the great cities and cultivated lands of the British North American Provinces, were formerly timbered with the *Larix Americana*. I considered it as appropriate, and conveying the meaning I wished it to be understood by the title of this work, to refer to those places as 'Hacmatack Clearings.' Hence the combination of these woods has suggested to the Author "Pine Forest and Hacmatack Clearings."

Of "Travel, Life, and Adventure"—the former will be found blended with the latter in those chapters which are