

also, in which trees are unsuitable, unnecessary, and absolutely pernicious. But having gone thus far we do not wish to go any further; but rather desire to put in a plea for trees when they are in their proper place.

Daily, trees are being cut down all over the country, and daily nature is making efforts to re-clothe our hills again. But all over the American Continent there is a slow and sure process of rooting out and burning up going on, which may in time convert a large tract of country into a dusty, unshaded, and unsheltered Abyssinian desert.

In several parts of the United States much attention is bestowed upon trees. They are planted for their shade, their shelter, their beauty, the feeling of comfort which they bring around a home, and the privacy and fresh air which they give in a crowded city.

The taste for trees exists in the city of Halifax, and some of our streets, such as Morris street and Brunswick street, are pleasant to walk upon. Magnificent edifices do not give half the comfort to a passer-by which he experiences from the shade or shelter of a wayside tree.

If trees are useful in the city, they are equally so in the country, where they can be so much more readily obtained, and where greater scope is presented for their tasteful disposition. How many farmer's houses do we see scattered over the hills of Nova Scotia, without a single twig to temper the cold blast of winter, or shade the weary toiler in the hot season of the year!

In planting trees, it is very necessary to exercise some discretion in the choice of kinds. In this climate we require hardy trees; in front plots in the city, neat compact-growing trees, such as the maple, the English lime, and horse-chestnut should be chosen, whilst in the country the choice is much greater. The present is the best time to make preparation for planting trees; that is to say, to decide upon the kinds to be planted, and the situations where. If we wait till the trees are out of leaf, a person who is not familiar with the different kinds of trees will either be at a loss to make a choice at all, or else make a bad one.

The suitability of the different trees for our soil and climate is best ascertained by examining trees that have been subjected to their influence for sometime. There are, in various parts of the city and country a large number of planted trees that will afford the required information.

The maples are perhaps more suitable than most others for shade trees, and may be readily obtained. The rock or sugar maple is the best, of neat habit and at the sametime rapid growth, the leaves of a vivid green; but the soft maple, on account of the great richness of its Autumn

foliage, tinged with the brightest hues of Canadian sunsets, ought to be interspersed with the other kind. The moosewood or striped maple probably does not thrive as a planted tree except where the soil is moist; but its foliage is very fine, of a pale yellow green colour. The spiked maple is a pretty little tree that grows in clusters, but has neither height nor habit to render it effective, at least as a single object. All these maples are common in our woods, and stand moving, even after they have attained considerable size.

The horse chestnut thrives remarkably well in Halifax, as in many other cities, and if largely planted would greatly improve the aspect of many localities.

The laburnum is a most beautiful tree, of small size and well suited to front plots, but is rather too tender for our climate. In sheltered places however, it succeeds better in Halifax than elsewhere in the Dominion, and the prettiest tree of it which we have seen for many years throws out its golden blossoms every summer, in front of a gentleman's residence in Brunswick street. In Ontario it can only be kept alive with difficulty.

The European larch is a graceful tree when in foliage, and although grown in a greenhouse in England last century, is now known to be perfectly hardy, even in Nova Scotia. The European larch is first cousin to our native hackmatack or "juniper," and fine specimens of it may be seen in front of the Bishop's residence in Hollis street. In favourable localities it grows to a great size. At the May meeting of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, Professor Balfour gave the following measurements of larches at Monzie Castle in Perthshire:—"One trunk measured, at 2 feet from the ground, 21 feet 4 inches in circumference; and at 4 feet, 17 feet 8 inches; diameter, 6 to 7 feet; and spread of branches from 40 to 50 feet. Another tree measured at 4 feet from the ground, 13 feet 8 inches in circumference, and 4½ feet in diameter."

One of the hardiest and most suitable shade trees for the city which we have, is the English lime tree. A stranger coming into Halifax if he be a lover of trees, has his attention at once attracted by the circumstance that the few shade trees to be seen in our streets are mostly limes, for the lime is not commonly grown in other American and Canadian cities. The lime tree (*Tilia Europæa*), called in German and Dutch, linden, is known as a native tree, not only in Britain, but generally in the middle and north of Europe. It is described by Theophrastus and Pliny, and seems to have been more generally diffused in ancient than in modern times. Then it was a forest tree, now a planted one. It is a great favorite in Europe at the present time; is generally planted in public places, parks and squares, in France, Germany,

Holland and Great Britain. Its large size, handsome appearance, and profusion of sweet flowers, well adapt it for this use. The wood is used for various purposes. The Russian mats used by gardeners and upholsterers are made from its bark. The flowers secrete a large quantity of nectar, and exhale a delicious scent. The tree attains a great age. The principal street of Berlin is called Unter den Linden, from the lime trees which are planted on each side. The lindens in front of our Province Building have long stood the cold blasts of winter, and the hot scorplings of city fires, and when a countryman goes a-lobbying for a road commission, he might well tell his friends when he goes home that he had been under the lindens.

In Switzerland and the South of Europe, another species, the *Tilia grandifolia*, is more prevalent than the European linden. It is quite hardy, and might be extensively planted as a shade tree, having larger leaves and being of more robust growth than the common kind.—Trees of it may be obtained in the Halifax Horticultural Gardens.

On another occasion we hope to enter fully into the merits of other trees suitable for ornamental planting.

INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

If a thousand persons were found dead in their beds in the city of Halifax tomorrow morning there would probably be a coroner's inquest. If their stomachs were sent to Dalhousie College for analysis, and the report showed that they had all died of an over-dose of oxalic acid, there would probably be a strong verdict by an indignant jury that great carelessness had been exercised by some unfortunate vendor of drugs.

Now, at the present season of the year, there is daily vended in the public markets of the city of Halifax, a poison that is not less virulent than the one we have spoken of, and which has, in other localities caused the loss of valuable lives, and more frequently disagreeable illness, which may after all perhaps have done good in some cases by frightening people into taking better care of their health. We do not say that deaths from this cause have occurred in Halifax city, because we have no facts. Dead men tell no tales. But when poisonous substances are commonly sold in a community and liable to be served up at daily dinner, the suspicion naturally arises that more or less injury, if not even death, must occasionally result.

At this season of the year, we do not know any substance that is more agreeable to the palate, and more conducive to health, than RHUBARB. Who will, in May or June, refuse rhubarb pie? If such exist, he must be some outcast or Abyssinian barbarian who has never pene-