

sides of mountains or their immediate vicinity, where the soil in general is gravelly, though deep enough to sustain its perfect development. The Chestnut of the Old World attains its greatest expansion in similar situations: an example is said to exist on Mount Etna of a Chestnut 160 feet in circumference, or about fifty-three feet in diameter, and large enough to shelter one hundred men on horseback beneath its branches; but its trunk is hollowed by time almost to the bark: near it stand several others more than seventy-five feet in circumference. At Sancerre, in the Department of the Cher, 120 miles from Paris, there is a Chestnut which, at six feet from the ground, is thirty feet in circumference; 600 years ago it was called the *Great Chestnut*, and, though it is supposed to be more than one thousand years old, its trunk is still perfectly sound and its branches are annually laden with fruit. I have never met with instances of such extraordinary growth in the United States; but the American species is probably susceptible of an equal development, since, in the forests of North Carolina, it is commonly as tall and as large as the corresponding species in those of Europe. I have measured several stocks which, at six feet from the ground, were fifteen or sixteen feet in circumference, and which equalled the loftiest trees in stature.

The Chestnut is a stranger to the province of Maine, the State of Vermont, and a great part of Genesee, to the maritime parts of Virginia, to the Carolinas, Georgia, the Floridas, and Louisiana as far as the mouth of the Ohio.

Though the American Chestnut nearly resembles that of Europe in its general appearance, its foliage, its fruit, and the properties of its wood, it is treated by botanists as a distinct species. Its leaves are six or seven inches long, one and a half inch broad, coarsely toothed, of an elongated oval form, of a fine brilliant color and of a firm texture, with prominent parallel nerves beneath. The barren flowers are whitish, unpleasant to the smell, and grouped on axillary peduncles four or five inches