

analytical examination of these would be of the greatest importance in the interests of manufactures and commerce. The British Colonies, Asia, and Africa, North and South America, and the various European States, all contribute of their forest wealth, adapted for the many convenient purposes for which wood is in demand. Much as Iron has come into use of late years to take the place of wood for ship building, it has not yet entirely replaced it; and there is still a large, and indeed, increasing demand for wood for lining the great iron-cased war vessels which recent invention has brought into play.

In the absence of any useful work on the products of the forests of the globe, to which reference can be made, it will, we think, be found exceedingly useful to advert from time to time to the series of woods which have been collected at much trouble and cost, to be displayed to the eyes of the world at South Kensington. These specimens may not, it is true, be very attractive or interesting to the mere idler and sight-seer at the Exhibition unless perchance he be struck with surprise at the huge dimensions of some section of a monarch of the forest, the growth of several hundred years; the great length of some planks, like those of Western Australia and Tasmania, shown in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society; or the picturesque timber trophy of Canadian woods, erected in the north-eastern transept, towering upwards to the roof. But, as indications of the soil, as mementoes of indigenous wealth, open to the axe of industry as materials for the use of the skilled mechanic and artificer, these collections of wood open up one of the most instructive fields for investigation, and will diffuse much that will supply thought hereafter. Capt. Fowke, R. E., who has already published some most interesting results of experiments on the strength and properties of colonial and other woods shown at the Paris Exhibition in 1855, is now conducting at the South Kensington Museum a daily series of tests on many of the woods exhibited; the published results of which will be of great importance.

Of the British colonies, Canada stands out most prominent in the collection of woods, and the colony on this occasion, with limited funds at command, has done well to confine itself chiefly to a noble display of her vegetable and mineral treasures. There are several collections of wood shown; and although they are more characterized for utility than for beauty, yet they are such woods as could not be done without; and our Australian and tropical colonies come in, too, with furniture and cabinet woods generally. It affords us much gratification to learn that an effort is making on the part of the representatives of the various colonies to establish by colonial aid, a permanent museum of colonial products; and from the unanimity with which the movement has been originated, there is every probability of its success, and of the most valuable collection now on view being re-

tained in tact. The usefulness of such a museum to the manufacturer, the artisan, the emigrant and indeed to all interested in the progress of our colonies, will be generally admitted; while France with but five or six colonies long maintained such a colonial museum, it does seem singular that Great Britain, with its many important colonies, spread over every part of the globe, should not long since have had such a collection, instead of being obliged every ten or ten years to have to go to enormous expense in forming collections which immediately are sold and disposed of and lost to the world.

New Brunswick, considering her forest resources, has not produced so good a display of woods as she might have done, although it are some very fine ornamental illustrative British Columbia and Vancouver have done as well as could be expected from their great distance and the expense of transit of the specimens—the planks and sections of the Dress pine and other giants of the forest indicate one of the sources of colonial wealth.

The Australian colonies have all come well in a display of their woods—and it is but to award the palm. New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand, all show very fine specimens of their woods in all stages—rough, polished and manufactured. Ceylon shows some of the beautiful furniture woods and their application. India has not done so much as she might have done, but she is circumscribed for space to exhibit the noble sections of wood lying at her house, the India gallery being chiefly occupied with works of art more attractive to the general public. Mauritius, St. Helena, and a few other small colonies have a fair display of woods; Natal stands as the representative of South Africa, and proves that there are some useful woods to be found in that quarter.

Passing to the West India group of colonies we find that great efforts have been made on this occasion to develop its woods and to bring them into public notice, and the beneficial result of this effort cannot fail to be felt. Ornamental woods of Jamaica, of Trinidad, British Guiana have taken the public by surprise, and the cabinet work made of them is of singular beauty, and we do not wonder that the woods have been highly commended and rewarded by the juries. British Honduras, Dominica and some of the smaller islands have also taken their attention, we hope with profit, to a cultivation of their indigenous woods, and the valuable squared logs of mahogany shown at the Haytian court, the woods of Europe, Asia, and the French colonies, are all the evidence of the dormant wealth yet available, and the progress of population, and the progress of population, making greater havoc among the forests, the forethought of individuals or governments, replacing by replanting.