

side. Like our magnificent Weeping Elm, but lighter, smaller, and brighter in its features, it rapidly lifts its head among its compeers till it overtops them, and then spreads its branches, drooping and subdividing into the most delicate silvery branchlets, whose pensile grace is only equalled by those of the Weeping Willow."

Although extensively planted in all parts of this country, it is far from enjoying that universal recognition to which its merits justly entitle it. While I was surprised to note its absence in the finer European parks and gardens, I am still more astonished to see so few fine examples in a city where it has been propagated by the thousands for years. The managers of our parks, too, have evinced great indifference towards this tree, if we may judge from the small number of fine specimens to be found growing in them. Strange as it may appear, it seems to have been reserved for the projectors of one of the fine parks in the West to properly employ this truly noble tree, by planting one of their leading avenues with it. All honour to the gentlemen of Chicago, who, realizing the surpassing charms and beauties of this Birch, have not only formed an avenue which will do credit to the park and themselves for all time to come, but will teach, stimulate and encourage similar efforts in other places.

*The Cut-leaved Birch* is one of those trees which is complete in itself. It has no defects of habit which require to be concealed, and should always be planted by itself in the most prominent and conspicuous position on the lawn. Although it is a rapid grower and attains to considerable size, it is equally well adapted for large and small grounds, and wherever planted always contributes towards rendering a landscape charming and effective. For avenue planting it surpasses all other trees. I have in my mind an avenue which has been planted lately in our city, and I trust the time is not far distant when we shall have several. Were we limited to a single ornamental tree, we should have no hesitation in selecting this in preference to any other. It is the most graceful of all trees, and deserves to be better known and more widely disseminated.

*Young's Weeping Birch* is a new and interesting variety, which is admirably adapted for the lawn. It was discovered about twenty-five years ago by Mr. W. Young, of the Milford Nursery, England. Owing to the slenderness of the branches, which in the original plant were so weak as to creep along the surface, great difficulty was experienced in propagating it. It was first offered in this country by Ellwanger & Barry in 1873. To the graceful elegance peculiar to the Birch family it adds the odd, singular erratic habit of Weeping Beech. It has long slender, thread-like branchlets, which fall from the main branches like spray. Grafted upon stems 6 to 7 feet high, it can be grown into a rounded, regular head, like the Kilmarnock Willow, or left to itself, it will send up a leading shoot, with side branches like the cut-leaved, only more spreading. In this distinct type we have gracefulness and picturesqueness combined. It is one of the very best of new trees, and worthy of being introduced into every garden.

*Betula alba pendula elegans* is another charming variety, of quite recent introduction, and, as yet, but little known. It originated with the Messrs. Bonamy Brothers, at Toulouse, France, in the year 1866, and was first exhibited by them at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1867, where it received a gold medal, the highest award for new trees. Ellwanger & Barry first offered it in this country in 1873. Its habit of growth is unique and beautiful. Grafted on stems 6 to 8 feet high, the branches grow directly downwards, parallel with the stem. Its decided pendulous habit, rich handsome foliage, delicate branches, render it particularly showy and attractive on the lawn. Among ornamental trees of recent introduction, this and Young's Weeping may be considered the most valuable acquisitions of many years.

*The Kilmarnock Weeping Willow*, first offered in this country by Ellwanger & Barry in 1857, is now so well known as to need no description. Being one of the most popular and widely disseminated of weeping trees, its history may not be uninteresting. "It was discovered growing wild in a sequestered corner of Monkwood estate, near Ayr, in Scotland, by an aged botanist, named James Smith, an enthusiastic lover of plants, and a zealous collector. From him, Mr. Lang, a nurseryman at Kilmarnock, purchased one plant in the year 1844."

Sir W. J. Hooker, curator of Kew Gardens, received two plants in the spring of 1852, and, having observed how exceedingly ornamental it was, gave Mr. Lang a decided opinion, stating that he thought very highly of it, and that it was much admired in the Royal Gardens at Kew. The name, Kilmarnock Weeping Willow, was given to distin-