

THE TIMBER OF PUGET SOUND.

Oh ! what timber. On the Atlantic slope, where it was my misfortune to be born, and where for fifty-two years I have been cheated by circumstances out of a sight of the real America, there are no woods. East of the Rocky Mountains trees are brush. They may do for brooms ; pieces of ships are got out of them, and splinters for houses. But the utmost throe of the Atlantic-slope soil and climate could not in ages produce a continuous plank which would reach from stem to stern of a thousand-ton clipper-ship. Puget Sound, anywhere and everywhere, will give you for the cutting, if you are equal to such a crime with an axe, trees that will lie straight on the ground, and cover two hundred and fifty feet of length and measure twenty-five feet around, above two men's heights from the ground (they are cut from stagings), and that will yield one hundred and fifty lineal feet of clear, solid wood below the branches. They are monarchs, to whom all worshipful men inevitably lift their hats. To see one fall under blows of steel or under the embrace of fire is to experience a pang of sorrow.

Out of deference to the human inclination to record testimony, I will show this timber of Puget Sound to my countrymen, and to those Europeans who are to be invited to become the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's fellow-citizens, through an official report. I will premise that the British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and Sardinian Governments are supplied on contract with masts and spars by a company which has erected saw-mills at the head of the Alberni Canal in Barclay Sound. It is the Douglas Pine or Yellow Fir, commonly called by lumbermen the Oregon Red Pine, which is sent across two oceans to Europe as the very best material of the kind on earth. It was upon the wood of this tree, the commonest and most abundant on the northwest coast, tested by order of the French Government in the dock-yard at Toulon, that the following Report was made :

"THE FLEXIBILITY, RESISTANCE, AND DENSITY OF MASTS FROM
"VANCOUVER ISLAND COMPARED WITH MASTS FROM RIGA.

"The principal quality of these woods is a flexibility and a tenacity of
"fibre rarely met with in trees so aged ; they may be bent and twisted
"several times in contrary directions without breaking. Several of the
"greatest length, having the ends at the foot and the top of the tree cut