

TO THE OWNERS OF WOODLANDS.

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association in doing good and valuable work in teaching the people of that State to take care of their forests. *Forest Leaves*, the organ of the Association, is full of information about forests, trees and tree culture, and with more frequent and regular publication would be a model of its kind.

The clear and forcible recommendations which this Association makes in one of its recent circulars are applicable to every owner of a forest or of a piece of woodland; and we are glad of the opportunity to reproduce them for the benefit of our readers. The Association "wants every farmer, every owner of woodland, to know—

"That his wood lot contains a valuable crop, which it will pay him, not only to cut down and slaughter, but to manage and utilize judiciously;

"That it is possible to utilize the old trees in such a manner that a new, valuable crop is produced instead of the inferior crop, which now so often takes the place of the virgin forest after indiscriminate cutting;

"That as an intelligent manager and husbandman, he would do better to see to a natural reproduction of his wood-lot, to cut with regard to the spontaneous young growth, rather than to clear indiscriminately;

"That the time has come when forest destruction must give way to forest management; for timber is becoming more valuable every year, as it grows scarcer in the country at large;

"That in the woodlands in proper proportion lie, to a large extent, the conditions of a favorable climate and successful agriculture;

"That upon forest growth depend healthfulness and equatleness of climate;

"That the forest breaks the force and tempers the fury of the northern, and cools and moistens the breath of the southern wind;

"That by its own cooler and moister atmosphere in summer and warmer atmosphere in winter, it tends to equalize temperature and humidity over the intervening fields;

"That while the open, treeless, heated prairie prevents the fall of rain, allowing moisture-laden clouds to pass over it undrained, we must thank our forest-clad hills and mountains for our more frequent, more gentle, more useful showers; and, above all,

"That the forest cover of the mountains preserves the even water flow in our springs, brooks and rivers, while its destruction, or even deterioration, increases the danger of floods, washes off the fertile soil, and then brings down unfertile soil into fertile valleys, lowers the water level, and, in general, throws out of balance the favorable conditions for agriculture;

"That while we advocate the cutting and using of the wood crop as we need it, we must not any longer, as we have done, squander and waste it; we must not clear where clearing produces danger to the surrounding country."—*Garden and Forest*.

If the clearing up has not been done, lose no time in raking up and removing rubbish of all kinds. If manure is used on the lawn, let it be so thoroughly decomposed that the seeds of weeds cannot survive. Such fertilizers as ashes and bone-dust can be used without risk. Nitrate of soda, three hundred pounds to the acre, is an excellent manure for grass, especially if it can be applied just before a rain.

The best American wood for butter firkins is sound, white oak. There are, however, several other species of oak that answer very well for this purpose, but the common white oak is the best. White ash is also extensively used for butter-tubs, but it contains an acid which is objectionable. There are very few kinds of native wood fit for making butter packages, although spruce, pine and other easily worked woods are used for such purposes, and really good butter is often spoiled by being packed in tubs made of gummy and strong-scented wood.