

**CISTERNS.**—I have had occasion to visit Mr. Sisson's Planing Machine, recently erected on the corner of Alice and Terauly Streets of this city, for the planing of plank, boards, &c., which requires a considerable quantity of water, and to supply which, it was found necessary to erect a cistern. Application was made to a person to construct one to be coated with water lime, which would have cost about ten pounds—a sum altogether too large. At length a more simple plan was hit upon, which bids fair to excel all cisterns in use. The pit being excavated twenty feet long, ten feet wide, and four feet deep, a quantity of blue clay was prepared in a similar manner to the preparation of clay for brick, and a coating of this substance was plastered on the sides and bottom with the hands, to the thickness of four inches, and the surface smoothed with a trowel, which completed the cistern with the exception of covering it with boards. It is now filled with water, and to all appearance does not leak a drop. If the sides of this cistern can be securely protected from the action of the frost, it must prove a great benefit to the country.—*Com.*

Toronto, September 1st, 1845.

#### TREES FOR SHADE AND ORNAMENT.

The spirit of utilitarianism is carried to such an extent in this country, that the ornamental is almost always sacrificed to the useful. "What will be the gain thereof?" is the question propounded, when any project is proposed, instead of saying, in accomplishing this or that object, cannot the useful and the agreeable be united, thus gratifying the eye, and at the same time satisfy the pocket, which is the *primum mobile* of the age.

There is nothing that harmonizes the passions of man, quells the evil influences of trade, or adds to the happiness of the soul more, than to throw around him those various charms which are found in the natural world; the green fields, the flowers, the fruits, majestic trees, with flocks and herds reposing beneath their branches, the waterfall, in fact, the panorama of creation as it meets the eye of the agriculturist in his daily pursuits. It enlarges the soul, expands the intellect, and exalts man. If this be the effect of *viewing* nature in her loveliness, with how much more zest can these things be enjoyed, when our own hands have dug the soil, sown the seed, planted the tree, or trained the vine. We view them as the fruit of our toil; and all know there is more real enjoyment in witnessing the results of our own labor, than in partaking of that which is bought with silver and gold.

These are some of the thoughts which have been suggested to my mind in reading in your

May number the description of the beautiful grounds of Mr. Colt, at Paterson. I can say as did the Queen of Sheba to Solomon, when she saw the splendor of his dominions, "the half has not been told of them." Mr. Colt can truly say that, under his cultivation, the barren hills have been made "to bud and blossom like the rose." It has also induced me to make a few observations on the value and importance of shade trees as an ornament to towns and villages, and to propose a plan by which the object may be accomplished with pleasure to all.

It should require no argument to prove the value and utility of shade trees in public streets and roadsides. Yet when I look at many places in the country, more especially westward, I am pained with the thought that so little attention is given to beautifying them with noble shade trees. In too many cases, the streets are as barren of shade as the ocean. The people of New England have paid considerable attention to this subject, and, as a consequence, most of the villages are well cared for in this particular. If any of your readers have passed through the village of Upper Middletown, Ct., they have probably noticed two splendid rows of maple trees running the length of the main street, which improve the appearance of the place more than would the most costly mansions. And as the inhabitants walk beneath the shade of these trees on a summer's day, and feel the cool breeze as it plays among the branches, have they not a just pride in pointing to them, and are they not a strong tie to bind the people to their native place? I mention this place as an instance, because it is my natal home; many more might be noticed, if it were necessary. Take away the elms from New Haven, and it would be shorn of its beauty.

A description of the avenue leading to the residence of Mr. Clay, as given by a correspondent of the New York Tribune, is so *apropos* to our subject, that I am induced to insert it. "Mr. Clay has paid great attention to ornamenting his land with beautiful shade trees, shrubs, flowers, and fruit orchards. From the road which passes his place on the north-west side, a carriage course leads up to the house, lined with locust, cypress, cedar, and other rare trees, and the rose, yasmine and ivy were clustering about them, and peeping through the grass and boughs like so many laughing furies as we drove up. His mansion is nearly hidden from the road by the trees surrounding it, and is quiet and secluded, save to the throng of pilgrims continually pouring up there to greet its possessor, as though it were in the wilderness."

Facts like these might be enumerated to show their utility. But shade trees have their value in a pecuniary point of view, for they increase the value of land in places thus improved. If an individual is choosing a location, he does not look to the worth of the land by itself, but weighs all the advantages and disadvantages the place possesses; and to a man of taste, shade trees would often be the turning of the scales.