

Frank Buckland, who fully illustrated the Royal heads of European deer. We have had many opportunities of seeing and handling the heads of what are termed "King Bucks," belonging to the common deer (*C. Virginianus*). Instance the illustration at the head of Mr. Scriven's advertisement—that we take to be a "King or Royal Buck" head of *C. Virginianus*. We agree with our correspondent that the horns of all species of deer are variously produced, but independent of this fact, we can show a series of heads with horns of unusual or "King" typical form, and these heads are from different parts of the Dominion. We have on this continent three forms of *C. Virginianus*, all of which produce Royal heads, and when we compare these horns with the genus *Cervus* of Europe, then it is that we arrive at the conclusion that such are produced and they are termed here "Royal Bucks." Age has nothing to do with the growth. For instance, say that the nails on the doctor's fingers are not clipped for one year, they may probably grow the length of his fingers, and moreover take a spiral form. The argument that the growth is retarded by frost, is not natural, because the horns are fully grown, and there are not many bucks in the velvet by the end of September.

Since a portion of this note was in type, we received an addenda to the above letter from the doctor, in which he says that there is a great difference between the deer (*Genus Cervus*) of Scotland, and the common deer (*Genus Cariacus*) of America. We are perfectly aware of this, but the fact that they belong to two distinct genera does not disturb our theory that they are both liable to attain horns known as "King or Royal Bucks." A "Royal Head," although rare, is not typical but an abnormal form, occurring in all species of deer, and having said this much, we ask the opinions of others on the matter.—Ed.

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We do not know the Montreal journalist referred to; we have no time to enquire if he is a "scamp" or not. You had better address Detective Cullen of this city, who will ferret him out and send the required information.

OUR FOREST TREES.

WHITE BIRCH; *B. alba*.—This is the smallest of the birch trees, seldom attaining a height of over 30 feet. It grows with the pitch pine in the poorest sandy soils, and is fit to cut for fuel in ten years from the seed. Its wood is of no other value, as it is soft and decays rapidly.

COMMON ALDER; *Alnus serrulata*.—A shrub or small tree, seldom growing more than 12 or 14 feet high and 2 or 3 inches in diameter. It abounds along water courses and in swamps, where its flowers are among the earliest harbingers of spring, sometimes displaying their tassels in the closing days of March. The wood, which is at first white and soon acquires a buff color, is chiefly used as fuel, and for making charcoal, to be employed in the manufacture of gunpowder. It is also taken for the hoops of small casks. Alder leaves are thought to have some medicinal value as an application to ulcers and to sore throats.

BUTTONWOOD; *Platanus Occidentalis*.—Next to the white pine, the buttonwood or plane tree is the loftiest and grandest tree of New England. One which grew a few miles from Newport forty years ago, measured over 24 feet in circumference at one foot above the ground. On the Ohio river the buttonwood acquires gigantic proportions. In 1820 the younger Michaux measured a stock which at four feet above the ground, was 47 feet in circumference. When standing near water this species is noted for the rapidity of its growth, and has been known to attain the height of 80 feet in 20 years. For some years the buttonwood of the Eastern States have been subject to a malady, not yet satisfactorily accounted for, which has destroyed many of the finest trees and has affected the branches and leaves of many others. In the South-western States the buttonwood, known there as the sycamore, is still vigorous and healthy. Very little use in the arts is made of the wood of this tree, for although firm and of pleasing grain, it is very perishable and liable to warp. As fuel it has been pronounced of fair value.