

length—neither rust or mildew touched it, yet the yield was only seven pecks to the bushel of seed, in consequence of the depredation of the midge. *Country Gentleman.*

Forests and Forest Trees.. I

THEIR CARE AND PRESERVATION.

It is time for Americans to give special attention to the preservation of forests and to the growth of forest trees. In the settled parts of the continent a great portion of the woods have disappeared. In many places, where the natural growth was so luxuriant fifty years since as to be an incumbrance, timber for building and mechanical purposes has increased in value from five to ten fold, and is very scarce, while wood for fuel is almost unpurchasable. In a vast portion of these sections of the national domain which are sparsely settled or still unclaimed, there are no natural forests. Some of these regions, such as the prairies of Illinois and Iowa, are fertile and capable of rapidly producing a heavy growth of timber, when once planted and cared for, as numerous experiments have proved. On the other hand, some hilly and mountainous regions and the arid plains in the Indian country, in New-Mexico and North-Western Texas—the “great American desert”—are not readily susceptible of cultivation. But in nearly every square mile of these regions trees can be made to grow. When once planted, they will be the direct means of creating moisture, which will feed springs and streams, and of ameliorating the climate, and thus of rendering the soil productive.

As it is only by considering the properties of trees, and the part played by forests in the economy of nature, that we can see and appreciate their value, we may be pardoned for

attempting a somewhat extended and comprehensive view of the general subject.

Nature maintains a beautiful consistency in the distribution and arrangement of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. It is often said the lion, the tiger, the leopard and the camel delight in arid and sandy deserts. But this is only partially true. These beasts like a warm climate, and will live in barren tracts where the means of subsistence are so scanty as to drive away animals of other species. But should you entirely remove the vegetation, the equilibrium of nature would be destroyed, and all animals except those passing from one fertile region to another would disappear. Ruminating animals would leave in quest of vegetable food, and the carnivora that live upon them would follow. The animal world is dependent directly and solely on the vegetable world for subsistence. This is exemplified as clearly when man devours the ox that crops the verdant pasture, as when he lives entirely upon fruits, roots and plants. “For all these hungry guests Nature spreads the table when she brings forth vegetables, and if she would not let one of her world—the animal—become extinct, she must provide so surely for the multiplication of plants, that spite of all injurious and destructive influences, a general famine shall be impossible;”

But the vegetable world, while giving its fruits as food and sustenance to living creatures, has other properties, and carries out other purposes. We see at once the utility of a sturdy oak or a tapering pine when converted into the beam of a house or the mast of a vessel, but we do not always comprehend the direct and beneficial effects that trees and forests have upon the atmosphere, and through the atmosphere upon the