

moss, was the stone of Sisyphus. He was successively a musician, schoolmaster, singingman, husbandman, grazier, poet, more skilful in all than thriving in any vocation. He traded at large in oxen, sheep, dairies, grain of all kinds, to no profit. Whether he bought or sold he lost; and when a renter, impoverished himself and never enriched his landlord. Yet hath he laid down excellent rules in his 'Book of Husbandry and Huswifery,' so that the observer thereof must be rich. He spread his bread with all sorts of butter, yet none would stick thereon; yet I hear no man to charge him with any vicious extravagance, or visible carelessness." I might quote the testimony of many other eminent writers to the moral worth of our poet, and the merit of his rhymes, while all lament his ill success in life. In that age of quaint device and allegory, a scythe and whetstone seems to have been thought an apt emblem of poor Tusser. This is found in Peachum's "Minerva" a book of emblems, printed in 1612, with a poetical commentary, and the same idea is more tersely rendered in a work printed in 1641, entitled "Recreations for Ingenious Head-pieces, or a Pleasant Grove for their Wits to Walk in," thus—

"Tusser, they tell me, when thou wert alive,  
Thou, teaching thrift, thyself could'st never thrive  
So, like the whetstone many men are wont,  
To sharpen others when themselves are blunt."

#### WHAT TIME SHALL WE CUT TIMBER?

*Never in winter, but always in summer.* It should be cut during the most rapid season of growth, and while that season is drawing toward a close. The same rule should be followed that skilful nurserymen observe in performing the operation of budding—that is, just as the *terminal bud* on each branch begins to form—as soon as it is first evident that the growth of the branch is about to terminate, but is still in active progress. Experienced tree-propagators have found that much earlier than this, the juices of the tree are in too thin or liquid a state to form a good adhesion between the bud and the peeled surface.—From the moment that the bark separates freely from the wood, these juices continue to thicken, until growth ceases altogether and the new wood is completely formed; and when this new wood is in the state of a thick paste or cement, then is the time that the bud will adhere most perfectly. This is the period when the bark may be peeled from the tree without destroying its vitality. And this is the time for cutting timber. Early in spring, the tree is full of sap, which is little else than pure water, and which has been gradually accumulating through winter by the absorption of the roots, with no outlet for its escape, as there is in summer through myriads of leaves. While the tree is thus replete with water, it is in the worst condition to be cut. But towards midsummer, when a portion of this water has passed off through the leaves, and the rest has been much thickened by conversion into material for wood, the case is very different; for while the watery sap promotes only decay, the thickened juices soon dry

and harden, and assist in the preservation of the wood.

We have recently been furnished with a number of facts, in corroboration of this opinion, by Isaac Hathaway, of Farmington, Ontario county, N. Y., an old and enterprising settler, a close and extensive observer, and who has had much experience in connexion with saw-mills and timber erections. All his observations tend to show the great difference between winter and summer cut timber, and induce him to think that, cut at the best period, it will last under the average of circumstances three times as long as when felled in winter. In one instance, a fence, consisting of winter-cut materials, a part split into rails, and a portion in round poles, of beech, maple, iron-wood, bass-wood, &c., had completely decayed in fifteen years, and none of it was even fit for firewood. In another case, a quantity of bass-wood rails were cut in summer, and split from the brown or heart portion of the tree. This was done about fifty years ago; thirty years afterwards the fence was quite sound, and even now some of the same rails remain undecayed, although much worn away by the weather. Winter saw-logs, left over one summer at the mill, are usually much decayed for several inches towards the interior; summer-cut logs, which have lain a like period, are always sound. He has cut hickory for axe-helves; if done in winter, decay soon commences, and the worm which loves this wood, often wholly destroys its value. Summer-cut, he has never known it to be attacked by the insect, and indeed it seems too hard for them to penetrate. He had occasion to examine several old frames of buildings, and in every instance where the period of cutting could be determined, the same striking difference in durability was conspicuous.

He related several experiments on the durability of posts, one of which is worthy of repetition.—In a gravelly soil, where the water never remains, a stone bottom a few inches thick was laid in the post-hole, on which the post was set, and was then surrounded with stone closely rammed in on every side. As a consequence, the water never remains long enough in contact with the post to soak its interior, as would be the case if damp earth passed its outer surface. Such posts consequently give promise of remaining sound, after some years trial, at least twice the period of those simply packed in earth. He also finds that posts of what is termed the white cedar in western New York, (the American aborigine last much longer when set green with the bark on, than if sawed and seasoned, which he attributes to the protection afforded by the durable bark, against the vicissitudes of rain and drouth, and the air and weather generally.\*

Now that the season is approaching, best adapted for timber-cutting, as indicated in the preceding remarks, we hope those interested will at least satisfy themselves on the subject by a fair and careful trial.—*Country Gentleman.*

\*In ordinary instances, however, above ground, the bark by preventing seasoning, only accelerates decay.