



THE AETNA

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The "Aetna Chestnut."

AN ancient chestnut casts its shade
Upon Mount Aetna's side ;
So broad the shadow it has made,
'Tis of that land, the pride.

And horsemen brave have halted here,

While on the gallant march ;
And countless hearts have blessed the
cheer
Of this far-spreading arch.

Through ages of the vanished past,
Its fruitage has been shed ;
While harmless swept the wildest blast,
Around its stately head.

A symbol true of our fair tree,
Growing in richer soil,—
Its *spreading branches* formed to be
Shelter for all who toil.

Unlike that tree in distant land,
Our own grows strong with time ;
Of man's best planting, reared to stand
A monument sublime !



THE "AETNA CHESTNUT."—*Castagno di Cento Cavalli.*

The engraving is copied from Emerson's superb work on Trees. Of the noble veteran among forest trees, he writes :
"Some of the most remarkable trees of Europe are chestnut trees. On Mount Aetna is the *Castagno di cento cavalli*, so called from its having sheltered
hundred cavaliers. Brydone found this, in 1770, two hundred and four feet in circumference; and it had the appearance of five distinct trees. A century before
was seen by Kircher, they were united, so that probably it had been one tree."