

Respecting a Text Book on Forestry," and "Suggestions Regarding Government Assistance."

On one of the days during the congress at Cincinnati trees were planted to the memory of the illustrious soldiers, statesmen and other prominent individuals, deceased and living, and among one of the pleasantest features of the time was the setting aside of a portion of Eden Park to be called "the Queen's Grove," and also the planting of two oaks by a number of ladies in honor of Her Majesty the Queen and H. R. H. the Princess Louise.

A PREHENSILE TREE.

So many curiosities of plant life have of late years been brought into public notice that the report of the existence of a tree which picks up stones, bones, bits of wood, and other unconsidered trifles from the surface of the ground, retaining them, and suspending them in mid-air, says *Colonies and India*, hardly excites the incredulity now-a-days with which such a statement would have been received a generation ago. Thirty years ago stories of plants whose flowers were furnished with the means of enclosing flies, or even pieces of meat, as a spider seizes on its prey, and quickly surrounds it with a network of gauze and which then actually proceeded to eat the prey thus secured almost as a spider would eat a fly—such stories, thirty years ago, would have been relegated to the category of "travellers' tales." But we have the authority of Mr. Darwin, and anyone may easily have the evidence of his own eyes, to prove that the possession of such properties by certain flowers is no fiction, but an undoubted fact. The same authority, who first brought prominently into notice the remarkable properties of the *Drosera*, has also shown that other plants have actually the power of progression, within certain limits, from one spot to another.

With such instances it requires little effort to believe the correctness of the report above alluded to, that some plants are endowed with the faculty of picking up loose articles from the ground. Lieutenant Houghton, who recently visited New Guinea and several other islands and groups of islands in the Pacific, was the first, we believe, to report the existence of such a tree, though he did not explain the means by which it accomplished this unusual feat. It appears to be a species of *Ficus*, allied to the well known banyan tree, which throws out from its branches air roots that eventually reach the ground, take root there, and in their turn become new stems which perform the same function, so that a single tree eventually extends so far in all directions as to form a complete forest, in which all the stems are united by the branches to each other. The prehensile tree in question similarly throws out from its branches long flexible tendrils, which, touching the ground, do not take root there, but twine themselves around any article that may lie within reach. Eventually these quasi-branches contract so that they fail to reach the ground; but the finger like processes continue to closely grip the substance round which they have twined themselves, and which are consequently suspended in mid-air. In this way articles of considerable weight may be literally picked up from the ground by the tree, and so held in suspension.

MISSISSIPPI LOG CUT.

The Minneapolis *Tribune* gives an estimate of the logs cut in the Mississippi district above Minneapolis and to be sawed at that point. The logs cut have not yet come down to any great extent, hence the cut can only be estimated. Major Camp, who has been over the ground thoroughly, however, estimates the entire crop at 337,000,000 feet in round numbers.

This cut is considered an average one and sufficient for the needs of manufacturers. Two-thirds of the streams in the upper Mississippi country have had plenty of snow; the hauling has been good, and the cut fully up to the average. The winter weather in the latter part of March did much towards preserving an average in the cut along the lower streams, and on the whole the cut has been fully up to what could have been reasonably expected. In spite of this, however, the prospects for lumber manufacturers are not considered particularly rosy.

Though the price of lumber is \$3 per M. more than it was last year, the price of logs has increased still more, while labour and other items of expense are much higher. The men who will make the most money are the loggers who sell their cuts. Of the total cut, all except 90,000,000 feet will be manufactured in Minneapolis.

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