

How to Procure Good Trees for Planting.

BY H. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIÈRE.

It is not easy to procure young forest trees, worth planting. The trees raised in the nurseries can generally be relied upon and they are sold at moderate prices, but, owing to distance, want of easy communications, delays in forwarding and delivering (which are oft the cause that the trees, when received, are unfit for planting) and to the cost, however moderate, it is very seldom that farmers have recourse to the nurseryman for the forest trees they intend planting (I do not allude, here, to fruit trees.)

They generally go to the woods for them, often a distance of several miles. Those who have tried it know how hard it is to find such trees as they want, how much time and trouble it takes to dig them up, and how impossible it is, even with the greatest care, to avoid wounding and tearing off the roots. They know, too, how little satisfaction they have generally derived from all that work. Trees taken out of the forest and transplanted on the open, are placed at a great disadvantage; they fail so often that people get discouraged and many give up tree planting, as too difficult an undertaking.

Nothing is easier, in the proper season, with soil fit to grow the kind of tree you wish to plant, if the tree is in good order, with a little care you ought to succeed. But the trees young out of the woods are seldom in good order, and they cost you a high price in time, if not in money. If you wish for good trees, in great number, safe to grow, without trouble nor expense, procure them from a nursery, but let that nursery be your own.

Any farmer can start, in a corner of his garden a nursery of forest trees, by sowing the seeds of the trees he wishes to plant. With a little observation, it is easy to find out when the seed is ripe; for instance, towards the end of June, beginning of July, the seed of the elm and of the soft maple (acer rubrum) is ripe; by sowing it at once, it will sprout and the little trees grow nearly one foot in height this summer.

The maple, oak, ash, birch, hickory &c. ripen their seed in autumn; better sow it at once than winter it in the house. Sow in straight rows, with a garden line, leaving a picket at each end, to guide you when weeding. Sow an inch deep for the maple seed, and for other kinds in proportion to the size of the seed, and two or three inches deep, for butternut and walnut. Then after the first year, if needed, and transplant further on the little trees removed in thinning. After three or four years, more or less (the time will depend on the rate of growth of each kind of tree) plant your young trees where they are destined to stay. Choose a cloudy or rainy day in the spring and, without leaving home, with no trouble, without breaking any roots, you will take up and plant at once, without allowing the roots time to dry, one hundred young trees, certain to grow in less time than it would take you to go to the woods, and dig up ten trees, with a poor chance of their taking root and living.

These young trees will cost you nothing, your children will soon learn how to weed them and take care of them, especially if you set them the example. Our own children, from the young, took pleasure in sowing the seeds by me in the growth of the trees, and in dead all up. By sowing, in the spring, or in the fall, any number of seeds, by degrees, the trees will grow up.

of the small roots. Plant them, at once, in your nursery.

It is very difficult to collect pine and spruce seed. Early in the spring, when the ground is still soft and spongy, in the pastures, near where those trees grow, you will see a number of young pines and spruces that you can pull up very easily; plant them at once, for that kind of tree, you must shelter them from the sun, until they are well rooted.

Whenever the ground of a garden has been dug up and worked in the fall, if there are any maple or ash growing in the neighborhood, it will be noticed that the ground in the spring is more or less covered with maple and ash seedlings, grown from the seeds fallen from those trees. It takes a very little time to pull up and replant hundreds of them, and scarcely any of them will fail; of course, they must not be pulled up too roughly or it may damage the delicate roots; if the ground is too hard, use a trowel. As much as practicable, they ought to be pulled up when they have only got their two first leaves, which are easily known by their peculiar shape, long and narrow, from one inch and a half to two inches long and about a quarter of an inch wide.

For several years past I have been seeking the cheapest and, at the same time, most effective mode of restoring the woods, where they have been completely destroyed, many of our old settlements are completely denuded of trees, and I can recommend this simple mode as the best, from my personal experience. Let those who suffer for the want of fuel, of timber for building, of trees for shelter and ornament and those who would look to have a sugar maple grove at their door, let them start their own nurseries this very summer; it will entail no expenditure of money, take but very little time and repay them bountifully. It will be a pleasure for me to give any further information and advice to all those who may apply for it.

Leclercville, P. Q., May, 1890.

Beauties of the Garden.

There is a certain fascination about a little plot of ground all one's own. It becomes invested with dignity; it is a freehold—a miniature world to people and govern as one wills. Just a bare, soft, brown square of friable earth—but with what possibilities! Across it there may move in succession splendid pageants of color and form: purple plumes may wave, golden chalcids be upheld to the sun, azure campanulas ring out the hour; grim monkshood may look solemn, "ardent marigolds" flaunt their gaudy robes, says Good Housekeeping. There will be silver, ruby and amethystine tints, and tenderest greens; and there will be floods of perfume, swiftly darting humming birds, hovering butterflies and mysterious night moths. To evolve these possibilities, it is best to follow the advice of Horace: "Begin; getting out of doors is the greatest part of the journey." Undoubtedly this is true, for once having plunged our hands in the moist, warm earth, a sort of magnetic current is established between us and our rugged first mother, and we watch with intense interest the growth of the tiny seedling and its development into the fair, perfect flower.

It is wise not to undertake too much at first. The beds prepared, there are the "collections" which the seedsmen thoughtfully arrange for the benefit of the amateur, and as they are accompanied by explicit directions, with just a little painstaking the most satisfactory results are seen to follow. Once successful with the hardy sorts, the more delicate may be essayed, and then the field is the world.

Among the roses, the beauty of the garden the past year was a bush of Polyantha rose, of the variety Mlle. Cecile Brunner. In color it is of an exquisite salmon pink, deeper in the centre; and while the half-open rose is lovely, nothing can compare with the dainty little buds, which are ideal for the whole bouquets. Little White and Mignonette are also very good. This year we have George Washington half rose, delicately shaded with fawn and white, and the DuRoi rose, shaded with white and pink.

been dead a year and a half, though bad men, we were told, would marry before that time. Their domestic arrangements are very peculiar, with a little background of poetic instinct, that shows through all the hard, practical facts of the case the same old human nature that has gradually evolved the love which is stronger than death. To begin with, when a man marries he is supposed to belong no longer to himself, but to his wife's parents. He is not permitted to speak much in their presence, and dares not look on his mother-in-law's face, shielding his eyes from it, as from the sun. The gift they have bestowed upon him in their daughter is supposed to be so valuable that he not only pays for it liberally at the outset, but any service they may ask of him he is obliged to render, so long as their child remains his wife; when she dies he cannot marry again without their consent.

The World We Live In.

The honest man approving conscience bleases, And yet we all from grim experience know He's bound to meet too oft with what distresses, While he's sojourning in this vale of woe. Alas! for what he hath, each rogue contentedeth, He of his substance is by knaves bereft— And, as the touch of time on him descendeth, He's lucky if he has his conscience left.

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