

AGRICULTURAL.

FIRE LUMBERING—A Lesson from History.

The white pine is perhaps the most valuable tree of our forests. From the first settlement of the country it has been most highly prized for lumber, and it now forms a part of almost every good dwelling in the land. The window frames and sashes, the blinds and doors universally made of pine—it often forms the mepboards and shingles, the beams and parts of the frame work. This tree was widely distributed over the older States in the North, and occupied the valleys of rivers and plains, where it was most accessible to the early settlers. The pine loved smooth easily worked land, and the settlers did the same. The pioneer, in making his clearing for a farm, had no thought for posterity. He wanted to plant corn and cultivate grasses, and the trees were his natural enemies. They had no value except for fuel, as they have none now, in many of the new settlements remote from navigable streams.

As the population increased, and cities began to be built, it would pay to cut and saw the pine, and send it to market. The settler wanted to realize immediately upon his purchase, and all the pine lumber was marketed that he could cut and saw. Thus all New England, except Maine, has been stripped of its pine, and even in the Pi-e Tree State, the pines are beginning to fail, and spruce, fir, and hemlock, are taking their place. It is said, we know not how truly, that pine from Michigan now sometimes finds a market in Maine.

It is only about eighty years since Vermont was settled, and it is not fifty years since the lumber trade was the principal business at Burlington, on Lake Champlain. The region around for twenty miles, back to the foot of the Green Mountain range, was heavily timbered with white pine. The men are now living who remember the grand slaughter upon these monarchs of the forest, and the shipping of lumber, through the lake, and the St. Lawrence, to Europe. Trees from four to six feet in diameter, and from 140 to 180 feet in height, were not uncommon. Dr. Wheelock of Dartmouth College, is said to have measured a tree that stood upon the college grounds, and found it 270 feet in length. But now a pine a hundred feet high is a rare object. In a recent trip from Burlington eastward to the mountains, we did not see an acre of primitive pine forest, and but few of the second growth. Other varieties of wood are much more common than the pine. Remains of the old forest are occasionally seen, in enormous stumps not yet rotted in the ground, or in stump fences, that have stood for a generation. The export of pine lumber has long since ceased, and the region is now dependent upon Canada and the West for its supplies. Hardly an intelligent farmer can be found that does not mourn over the indiscriminate havoc of the first growth of pines. It would take three hundred years to restore them.

Is there not a lesson in this fact for the lumbermen of Michigan and the North-western States? They own the land, and wish to make the most of it for themselves, and their children.—The clearing up of their pine lands is likely to go forward more rapidly than in Vermont, for the tide of emigration moves stronger westward, and there is an immense population along the seaboard, that must be more and more dependent upon these new States for their pine lumber.

At present they have but a small profit upon their lumber, because of its distance from market. The market is all the time coming nearer to them, and judging from the past, the cost of transportation will be diminishing. Will it not be better for their estates, a richer inheritance for their children, to leave at least half of these forests untouched by the ax? Suppose an acre of primitive pine forest now standing near the shore of Lake Champlain! With pine lumber worth from \$20 to \$30 a thousand, and a home market, every one acquainted with the business, can readily see the value of such a piece of property.—Many of the trees would be worth \$100 and upwards, and an acre would purchase a respectable farm.

It is worthwhile for the new settlers upon these pine lands to look forward fifty years, and think of their heirs, if not of their own old age. Then an acre of cleared meadow may be worth \$50 for cultivation, and an acre of primitive pine \$1000 for lumber. Of course, the most of the forests must perish to make room for farms and the onward march of civilization. We only ask that the wants of posterity may be considered, and that the unprofitable experiment of New-England be not repeated.—AM. AGRICULTURIST.

GOD SEEN IN THE FLOWERS.

The argument for the existence and wisdom of God, drawn from the marks of design in the works of creation, is one which can not be either gainsay or successfully controverted. And they meet us step by step, as we pass along the highway of life. In this flowering month of June, the gardener may discover a beautiful illustration of a divine power, that we must call special attention to it. It is in the habits of the plant known as COLCHICUM. It blooms in October, sending up from the damp soil its flower-stems without leaves, and then disappears.

Flowering thus just upon the verge of winter, it has not time to perfect

its seed and so provide for its own reproduction. For the immature seeds have perished in the bulb below ground through the winter; then in the Spring, up shoots a fruit stalk on which the seeds mature and ripen, about the first of June. What an admirable provision! Does this happen by chance?

COT. BILLY WILSON's Zouaves are having all sorts of stories told about them. A correspondent of the Milwaukee SENTINEL tells the following: "Yesterday, a Methodist clergyman went down to Staten Island to preach to them. Billy drew up his men, and called 'attention!' The parson then gave them a very edifying and appropriate discourse, to which, in obedience to the Colonel's commands they listened attentively. When the parson had finished, Billy gave his boy's short talk, somewhat in this wise: 'Boys' I want you to remember what the minister has told you. It is all for your good; take the gentlemen's advice and follow it; for there is no knowing but in less than six months every d—d one of you will be in Hell! Here a voice from the ranks called out: 'Three cheers for Hell!' and they were given with a will. The parson, astonished and angry, asked what it meant. 'Oh' says Billy, 'the boys don't know much about Scripture.'

"They think Hell is somewhere between Montgomery and New Orleans, and they are d—d anxious to get down in that neighborhood!"

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