

LIVE FOR SOMETHING.

Live for something, be not idle— Look about thee for employ; Sit not down to useless dreaming— Labor is the sweetest gain—

From the Scientific American.

WANT THERE BE A GREAT SCARCITY OF TIMBER IN THE UNITED STATES.

Messrs. Editors:—Taking, as a citizen, a deep interest in the welfare of the present and future inhabitants of this great commonwealth, I embrace with much pleasure the opportunity of bringing before the readers of your valuable paper, the views of a professional German forester—Charles Bertholdi—on a most important branch of national economy, namely, the culture of trees.

It is continued for a number of years longer, the United States will have to bear the disastrous consequences of that destruction. The bases of his conclusions are stubborn facts taken from the history of ancient and modern nations, such as the Persians, Greeks, Romans and Germans. He considers Persia to be one of the most remarkable illustrations of his views, and he says that there are in this respect three periods to be compared.

These facts are sufficient, I believe, to convince the most skeptical of the doctrine of a systematic cultivation of trees. Impressed with the great importance of this subject, as the reader of your valuable paper may already be, it will be more interesting to peruse the views of the author we have quoted in regard to the cultivation of timber in our country.

We thus understand why there is already a scarcity of timber in some parts of the Union. How is it to be remedied? Our author suggests a somewhat similar plan in regard to the timber as a Member of Congress (Mr. Morel) lately suggested in regard to agriculture. But the growth of timber being very slow, he thinks that laws should be enacted in each State to encourage the cultivation of trees particularly on ground which is not adapted for agricultural purposes.

USES OF THE POTATO.—This valuable and nutritious esculent is not only useful to us in the many tempting forms in which it is presented in its unmistakable character but the farina extracted from it is largely used for other culinary purposes. The famed gravies, sauces, and soups of France are largely indebted for their excellence to that source, and its bread and pastry equally so; while great deal of the so-called Cognac imported into America from France is the product of the potato, and imbued as the pure essence of the grape. The fair ladies of our country perfume themselves with the spirit of potato, under the designation of eau de cologne. But there are other uses which this favorite esculent is turned to abroad.

HOOPS.—It is not easy to fix the precise date of the first introduction of hoops as an article of female dress. It is very certain that they were worn as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as the pictures of that venerable sovereign exhibit her in dresses so widely spread that they could not have been sustained but by the aid of hoops. Anne, of Denmark, Elizabeth's successor, appears also in dresses scarcely circumscribed within narrower limits. In the reign of Charles the First they appear to have been laid aside, and the beauties of the court of Charles the Second, disdained their use.

laws are unsurpassed in respect of having yielded the greatest possible quantity of wood, and at the same time provided for a most extensive growth in the future.

Bertholdi gives more glaring illustrations as to the high importance to every civilized nation of a systematic cultivation of trees. Holland, he remarks, is a country naturally poor in the growth of timber, therefore it has to be supplied with wood for building houses and ships by the neighboring countries, namely, Wurtemberg, Baden, and Bavaria, from whence an enormous quantity is annually imported at an almost fabulous cost.

France is next taken up, and it is said that its geographical position and its climate are extremely favorable for a rich production of timber, but the government of la grande nation keeps employed ignorant, arrogant and utterly corrupt foresters, and instead of a rich revenue from this large natural source, the government has a great surplus in the expenditures every year. Although stringent laws are in existence, and severe punishments inflicted on every poor peasant who violates them, to prevent any illegal destruction, the yield in general throughout France is not one quarter of what it would be from a rational management. The contrast between Germany and France is most remarkable. It is shown by the relative states of two forests, the one on the boundary of Germany, and the other on the adjoining boundary of France, where there is no difference of climate and soil.

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As to Germany, the country was covered with dense forests a long time before the great nations mentioned above were found in the scene of action; gigantic trees were found in the forests. Already in the seventh century of the Christian era, the increase of population and its need of agricultural productions caused the clearing of forests. But this clearance did not assume so large proportions as might be supposed, as rigid laws were in force to properly limitate the natural instinct of the peasantry for the destruction of woods. This regulation became perfectly tyrannical; large forests being in possession of individuals—kings, nobles, and clergy. The first French revolution checked despotism in this direction; but on the other hand, the destruction of forests became at this period so prevailing, that a perfect barrenness of the soil was created in some parts of Germany; and it took many years of hard labor and the expenditure of much money to restore the fertility of these barren mounds, which restoration was also owing to the development of a better and more enlightened public spirit, which counteracted the effect of vile passions and ignorance.

AUNT SALLY'S MUFF.

BY C. M. KENDALL.

Miss Sally Strong was a peculiar woman. For forty years she had retained her name, which exactly suited her hard nature; and the man having the assurance to ask her to exchange it for his own, would have been a rare companion for Cummings in his tiger hunts in the jungles of Africa.

One neighbor, however, did not belong to this class of schemers. On the contrary, the old lady was very often the victim of his jokes, and he would dispute with her just for the sake of having a hot argument. Yet for any real service, she would often apply to him than any one else. She had even loaned him a sum sufficient to stock a fine store, but still this Frederick so often annoyed and vexed her that public opinion—extended no farther, of course, than the limits of the village—was equally divided as to whether he would be the favorite heir or be cut off with a shilling.

One evening, upon the meeting of the parish sewing circle at the house of the clergyman, this nephew perpetrated a joke upon his aunt, the result of which he never forgot. She, unlike most maiden ladies, considered these gatherings a sort of fashionable nuisance, but usually was present in order to indulge in her sarcastic remarks. Her nephew was there, ostensibly to wait upon his aunt, but the fair Lucy, daughter of the worthy practitioner, Dr. Blood, particularly allured him with her charms.

That was a costly joke of yours, dear Fred," said his wife gaily.

"But I got the muff at all events, Lucy, and that is better no one has come forward to claim the thing, and the dollars which she loaned me, I feel confident she intended to present it to me and therefore destroyed my note."

"Let us have a look at the old rifle, Fred, if the mottoes have not eaten it wholly up. I will return it with it in a moment."

HABITS OF GRASSHOPPERS.—A Goliath correspondent of the Texas Christianian gives some curious facts in relation to the grasshoppers which have recently swarmed in that region. He says:—"They have an especial fondness for wheat and cotton, but don't take so kindly to corn. The only vegetable they spare is the pumpkin. The most deadly poisons have had no effect upon them; fumes of sulphur they rather like; another is musquito nets they devour greedily; clothes hung out to dry they esteem a rarity; blankets and gunnysbags they don't appear to fancy. They swim the broadest creeks in safety, sun themselves awhile, and then go on. The whole mass appear to start and move at the same time, traveling for an hour or two, devouring everything in their way, and then suddenly cease, and not move perhaps for a week, during which time no feeding is noticed; and finally, they carefully avoid the sea-coast."

as I am concerned, you are entirely welcome.

"You will perhaps tell me that you have had no hand in this matter?"

Time passed on and young Strong prospered famously in his business. He had amassed sufficient means to be enabled to pay his aunt the sum she had loaned, but she declined receiving it, alleging that she preferred to have it remain on interest. In the meantime he had also persuaded the gentle Lucy to share his fortunes.

One morning the village was all action. During the night the spirit of the redoubtable lady had quietly taken its flight. She was found dead in her arm chair, and had died as she had lived, alone. She had alarmed no one during the night, nor had she suffered previous illness. Curiosity, of course, was intense on the subject of her will, and it was produced as soon as decency would allow. All her connections were present, and their eager, hopeful, anxious countenances would have furnished a rare subject for the pencil of an artist.

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as I am concerned, you are entirely welcome." "You will perhaps tell me that you have had no hand in this matter?" "No I will tell you no falsehood about it; but I intended it as a joke upon stiff deacon, as much or more than upon yourself."

SWIMMING A CREEK.

Hooper, the editor of an Alabama journal, the name of which we now forget, but which has always something in it to make us laugh, tells the following yarn:

Shall I tell you a bit of a story, having no connection with politics, this hot, dry weather? By permission—

Old Col. D., of the Mobile District, was one of the most singular characters ever known in Alabama. He was testy and eccentric, but had many fine qualities, which were highly appreciated by the people of the district.

"I'll catch you, you rascals," was ground between Col. D.'s teeth, and away he galloped in hot pursuit, muttering vengeance on his foes.

WAKE MONEY.—A good looking Irishman stopping at a hotel to warm himself, inquired of the landlord "what is the news?"

"The Chicago poet truly says that sin doesn't always come directly from the devil. A torpid state of the liver, or those cold dampings at bed time, have provoked the 'old man' with his deeds, into masterly activity. Many a time, to be wicked is only to be bilious, and to be diabolical is just to be dyspeptic. Many a patient has sent for the wrong doctor, calling for a divine, when he simply needed a prescription; thinking he had failed to worship, when he had failed in washing; bewailing an impure heart that he could not cleanse, and forgetting a pair of pants, looking like a couple of toads."

SOME OF OUR EDITORIAL BRETHREN are pretty sharp, and oftentimes give each other the hardest kind of raps over the knuckles. Here is a specimen brick: "A western editor, in speaking of one of his brethren on the quill noted for his fatness, remarked that if the note for his fatness, remarked that if the Scripture proverb, that 'all flesh is grass,' be true, then that man must be a load of hay. To which the aforesaid load of hay replied: 'I suspect I am, from the way the asses are nibbling at me.'"

PRUNING TREES.—June and July are good months for removing large limbs from fruit and shade trees. The sap is now in a right condition to form new wood, and the healing process commences at once. The foliage also serves as a shade to prevent sun checks in the wounded parts, although where large branches are taken from fruit trees it is better to coat the exposed portion with gum shellac dissolved in pure alcohol, to the consistency of cream.

CULTIVATE AND IMPROVE.

Deterioration in plants and animals is as possible as improvement. Nations, once renowned as the perfection of the human race, by neglect have sunk back to barbarism.

We might extend our illustrations of the truth of our position, at the expense of our pride of human progress, but these will be sufficient.

Through the whole vegetable and animal creation, and we shall find it unerring—what is not progressing is retrograding. Every farmer, then, may make up his mind that unless, by his efforts, properly directed, in taxing nature, he is improving his stock, and other products, they will deteriorate in his keeping.

While such has been the progress forward, of many of the fruits, others have greatly deteriorated, or progressed backwards. Not long since, some oat kernels were found in a coffin of one of the Gallic kings, who had been buried fourteen hundred years.

THE USUAL RESULT.—An Irishman in the witness box, was asked what they had at the first place they stopped? "Four glasses of ale." "What next?" "Two glasses of whiskey." "What next?" "One glass of brandy." "What next?" "A fight."

SOME PERSON ASKED CHARLES JAMES FOX what was the meaning of that passage in Psalms, "He clothed himself with cursing and swearing, as with a garment." "The meaning," said he, "is plain enough—the man had a habit of swearing."

"My dear madam, I am surprised at your taste in wearing another woman's hair on your head." "My dear sir," she replied, "I am equally astonished that you persist in wearing another sheep's wool on your back."

In Arkansas, when a man desires to say that he would like a drink, he declares that if he had a glass of whiskey, he would throw himself outside of it, mighty quick!