

RARE AND COSTLY WOODS.

WHERE THE TIMBER FOR FINE FURNITURE IS OBTAINED.

All Parts of the World Laid Under Tribute—How Various Kinds of Woods are Treated.

Very few people ever stop to think how much of our national prosperity has a wooden foundation. Nor is that all. We lay all wooded regions under tribute. The far and fragrant East sends us sandalwood and ebony, so precious that they are sold by weight. Norway, England, Spain, Southern Italy, South and Central America, Mexico, Cuba and the West Indies in general add to our supply. So, too, does Canada in very large measure. She sends us every year pines from many million stumps. She supplies also much more than half the yellow birch, which, by help of aniline stain, is a very Proteus of timber. It is strictly a temperate growth—haunting hills where snow lies long and summers are short and hot. Next to Canada as a source of supply come Maine, Vermont, northern New York and the mountains of north Pennsylvania. Its main use is in veneers, that in time become chair-backs and car-seats and all sorts of panels. Logs work much better if they come to the mill green. First they are stripped of bark, then cut into lengths and steamed in a vat for twenty-four hours. Then a big machine catches the bits of log and holds them lengthwise of the fiber against a lancet-edged, half-round cutter. In the twinkling of an eye the log is a big wooden ribbon, whose length depends upon its girth. Sixteen thicknesses of it come out of every inch, and it takes twenty-four after they are cut to make an inch of solid wood. It is not often that so many go together. For car-seats, chair-backs and so on these thicknesses are used—the grain of the middle one running against that of the other two. They are glued together with the strongest sticking of the glue pot and molded by hydraulic pressure into whatever form is needed. They stay in the mold until the glue is set hard. After that nothing but steam or moisture will move them from their proper curves or rectangles. After hardening they are kiln-dried, then sand-papered and stained cherry or mahogany, or else simply varnished to show their natural yellow. The process is much the same for all native hardwoods. For some purposes veneers are saved instead of cut. The waste is much greater, but the grain is better preserved. Birch is wonderfully cheap—only \$12 the thousand—in the rough. Manipulation adds to its value several hundred per cent. Even with costlier woods, such as walnut, it more than doubles it.

The best walnut in the log fetches twelve to fourteen cents the foot. Inferior qualities—known as "second growth"—comes sometimes as low as \$80 a thousand. It is enormously in fashion, though, and as the supply yearly grows smaller the price is likely to grow larger. It comes mainly from the middle south—Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Richmond is quite an entrepot for it.

Few things are more picturesque than getting out walnut. The trees grow sparsely here and there in the forest. Rich, deep alluvial is its favorite soil. If it is rocky and fed with drainings of limestone hills, so much the better. In the narrow, rich bottom along mountain streams or the chines of the hill country, it grows to a girth and stature elsewhere unknown. Up, up to the far blue heaven it sends its black-brown column, straight and true. At fifty years old it will be four feet through, at a hundred may be five. A curious fact in tree growth is that the larger the trunk the smaller the yearly increase. Walnuts less than two feet through will not pay for cutting. Even that measure the local buyer looks at askance, though he sells it for the same money to the manufacturer. A three-foot log is "good stuff," a four-foot one "fine," provided it has no burls or hollows or is not "doated" at the heart.

In the old lavish days the felling was done with axes and the logs "butted" as they lay. Now the logger saves muscle, time and timber by sawing down the trees. No matter how straight they grow, there is always to a woodman's eye a slight "hang" to one side or the other. By looking up the trunk he finds it out and governs himself accordingly. He saws first upon that side nearly half way through the trunk, using a crosscut about six feet long. A man stands at either end of it, and at the end of half an hour is more than willing to rest a bit. Then two small logs are laid crosswise for the tree to fall upon and the saw is set in upon the other side. Swiftly, surely, the sharp teeth bite their way to the heart. When the saw is well buried a wedge is driven to the cleft behind it to keep the tree from binding—that is, resting so heavily upon the blade as to stop its work. It takes nice calculation and steady hands to make both sawings meet true in the center. For ordinary timber an inch or so of difference does not matter. Walnut, though, is so prone to split that a little inequality may spoil several hundred dollars' worth of wood. To lessen the risk of it, felling is not done in windy weather.

It takes contrivance as well as muscle to get the logs to market. Log wagons are of various patterns; some low and broad enough to take off three or six, piled pyramidwise; others with wheels higher than your head and tremendous axles, to which one end of the log is chained, while the rest "drags its slow length along" at the impulse of eight stout yoke of oxen. Often, though, the finest logs grow where wheels cannot go. In such cases "snaking" comes in. A log chain, a big cable and a steady team are needed for it. Usually the log lies in a deep, narrow ravine, up whose steep sides wheels are out of the question. One end of the cable is made fast up the hill, the other is carried under and around the log. It is then tied fast to the log chain, at whose other

end is the team. At the word they tug and strain upward, and as the rope grates taut the big log rolls uphill. When the cable length is out the log is scotched, the whole process repeated, and continued sometimes till the load lies safe beside river or railway. There it lies till a buyer comes or high water floats it to lowland markets. In that case the purchaser better look out. In one case on record a sharp mountaineer tacked walnut bark all over a five-foot sycamore, rafted it down the Cumberland, sold it for some hundred dollars and got off with the money before the cheat was discovered.

Cherry has much the same habitat as walnut, and is handled nearly the same way. The main difference is that it is not so liable to split, hence does not need such care in felling. It fetches \$65 to \$90 a thousand feet, and either solid or in veneers is one of the most useful hardwoods. Walnut is the base of nearly all the so-called ebony, into which it is converted with aniline stain.

For long cherry often did duty for mahogany. Now that it is almost as costly, it is used in its own name and color. The unweildiness of timber is a main element of cost. Every handling almost doubles the price. Freight rates, high as they are, sink to nothing beside deekage, loading and unloading.

A timber ship in the tropics is often five months taking cargo. She will discharge it at a New York pier inside of five days. There are blocks along that water front fragrant with the clean, pungent smell of sawdust from Spanish cedar, mahogany, rosewood and many more. Mexico, Cuba and the West Indies, send all of them at prices not much beyond those paid for walnut.

After the trees are felled they are hewn square so as to fit solid in the ship's hold. Veneers of them are cut thinner than those of birch—about thirty to the inch. They are worth triple the same measure in the plank. The sawdust is saved for use in the arts—notably for tanning fine fur, wherein it is the active agent.

England spares us a little of her oak—precious little, though, for a magnificent price. All of it goes into cabinet work or for interior carvings and decorations in very swell houses. Black Irish oak comes, too, in very limited supply, but sufficient for the few who prefer it to native timber.

Though we have more than twenty sorts of oak, the red and white ones are those that furnish forth our walls and halls and wooden needs generally. It is usually quarter sawed—that is, cut in four before making into boards. The "Japanese oak," so-called, is a curious triumph of mechanics over nature. It shows a mottled or rather mackerel grain, like nothing that ever grew—for all that oddly handsome. To make it the knife edge is crinkled and made to eat its way with lateral motion, thus cutting in one place the growth of a dozen years. It takes enormous pressure to bring out a smooth surface, but it comes after awhile and remains without trouble. Oak wood comes from all over the country. The biggest and best, though, is cut in the river bottoms south and west or on northern slopes of the mountain lands from West Virginia down.

Birdseye or rock maple grows in Vermont, northern New York and the hill land of New England generally. It is in demand for furniture, carriage and car building, as well as for facing panels of steamers, houses and so on. It costs about the same as oak—\$45 to \$80 the thousand. California redwood is handsome of grain and easy to work, but for its peculiarity of shrinking—lengthwise as well as in width—it would doubtless rank high among ornamental timbers. California, too, sends us what is known as white mahogany. It is valued at \$9000 the carload, pays about \$400 freight, and perhaps costs the city owner of it as much more at the siding.—Chicago News.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

Skirts are growing longer. Brown was never more popular. Indiana has women notaries public. Fur capes will be worn all summer. Finger rings remain as popular as ever.

Ginghams with a lace design can be bought. The streets of New York are filled with white-gloved women. Minnie Hauk, the singer, was born in New Orleans in 1853.

Lover's knots of ribbon give the latest touch to a lace flounce. Mrs. Robert Goelt, of New York, pays taxes on \$3,000,000.

Diamond asps are worn as brooches and as ornaments in the hair. The bracelet par excellence is a gold bangle with an Egyptian inscription.

Thirteen more women than men voted at the municipal election in Cawker City, Kan.

A new brooch imitates in gold a little shoe, the rosette of which is formed of pearls.

Young women employed at the British Museum receive two cents per folio for copying.

A new veil, called fil de Vierge, is of thread studded with pearls or electric blue stones.

The latest fiat is that simplicity shall prevail in the street though magnificence runs riot everywhere else.

The first trades union of women in Belgium is an organization of women tobacco workers in Antwerp.

In the fashionable New York boarding-schools a manicure calls twice a week to treat the hands of the pupils.

A fat figure can be reduced in appearance by trimming the darts with braid one-sixteenth of an inch wide.

The Montreal (Canada) General Hospital refuses to admit female students to the privileges of the institution.

Enamelled snakes are demanded in the jewelry trade and tinsel snakes from the milliner and dealer in fancy goods.

A new brooch likely to please very young ladies consists of a pearl key thrust through a heart-shaped padlock.

The best dressed woman in the world is said to be Queen Margherita, of Italy. She seldom wears a dress more than once.

Ninety per cent. of all the applications of adoption received at the New York Foundling Asylum call for girl babies.

New York is said to employ an army of cash girls 30,000 strong, many of whom are nearer twelve than fourteen years of age.

The Empress of Austria is as busy as a school girl with her linguistic studies, and as interested as a land reformer in her agricultural projects.

The Duchess of St. Albans has recently had one of her gowns encircled with a set of family buttons made of cat's eyes and diamonds set in gold.

Printed crepe-de-Chine in bow-knots, floral and dotted designs, is made into very charming gowns for summer weddings, dinners, and water parties.

A London tradesman recently received an order for sixty-four pairs of shoes for the daughter of the Grand Duke Paul, of Russia, a child less than a year old.

A bride in Montreal appeared at the altar with her pet canary fastened to her shoulder by a golden chain. The bird enlivened the marriage ceremony with a song.

The Prince of Wales being asked on one occasion who was the cleverest woman he had ever met promptly answered: "My sister, the Empress Frederick."

Senator Blackburn's daughters are ardent admirers of thoroughbred horses. They are always to be seen at the Lexington (Ky.) races and are thoroughly accomplished in equine lore.

Mrs. Jennie June Croly is a little woman of slender figure. Her hair is brown, with a few strands of white in it. Mrs. Croly is a pleasant talker and an amiable and interesting woman.

Thousands of ready made skirt yokes are sold in New York every day. They fit the figure nicely and are invaluable to fat women. They are, however, cut on the bias, and require careful handling.

The Princess of Wales, who is a very pretty woman with a figure of a girl of nineteen, is the arbiter of the fashionable world. She is responsible for clinging-skirts and high collars, small bonnets, and other prominent features of women's dress.

The art of crochet has been turned to a very profitable account; for gold and silver laces are thus made, and many handsome black silk trimmings and large buttons are covered in the same fashion. Gold and silver gauze ribbons are studded all over with silver, gold and jet stars; and the graduated jet studs are used alike on gowns, skirts, capes and bonnets.

PRINCESS BISMARCK is in such poor health that the physicians doubt the possibility of her recovery.

It Makes Pure Blood
And by so doing Hood's Sarsaparilla cures scrofula, salt rheum and all other blood diseases, aids proper digestion, gives strength to every organ of the body, and prevents attacks of that tired feeling or more serious disease. If you will take Hood's Sarsaparilla now it will put you in the best condition to bear the hot days of summer.
Hood's Sarsaparilla
Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass.
100 Doses One Dollar
N. Y. N. U.—25

President George Stephen, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who has been elevated to the peerage with the title of Lord Stephen, will have a seat in the House of Lords.

The number of pupils belonging to the different grades of public schools in Boston the past year was 67,022.

The last two convents on the island of Madeira have ceased to exist.

How's This?
We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALKER, KINKAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

THE reported profits of the Methodist Book Concern last year were \$140,000.

In the "Guide to Health and Etiquette" will be found much useful advice on both subjects; this book is sent free for two 2c. stamps, by the Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

How to Make Money.
DEAR SIR—Having read Mr. Sargent's experience in plating with gold, silver and nickel, I am tempted to write of my success. I sent to H. K. Deino & Co., of Columbus, O., for a \$5 plater. I have had more tableware and jewelry than I could plate ever since. I cleared \$27 the first week and in three weeks \$97. Any one can do plating and make money in any locality the year round. You can get circulars by addressing above firm. Wm. Gray.

Children Enjoy
The pleasant, favorable action and soothing effects of syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative and if the father or mother be constive or bilious the most gratifying results follow its use, so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

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Cures Also: Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sciatica, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Wounds, Swellings, Soreness, Frost-bites, Stiffness, All Aches.

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Scrofula or Kings Evil is the most stubborn of all Skin affections. Whether inherited or otherwise, it is a blood disease and cannot be permanently cured by anything but S. S. S.
A GRATEFUL DAUGHTER.
My Mother was sorely afflicted with Scrofula for three years and a half; during that time the glands on her neck burst open in five places. Three of the openings were small and healed right up, but the other two would fill up and break open anew, about every two weeks, always causing severe pain and often prostration. She was so reduced in strength, that tonics and coca wines had to be generously used to keep her alive. She commenced taking S. S. S., and improved from the start, the first bottle gave her an appetite and by the time she finished the fourth bottle her neck healed up, she is now entirely well.
Mrs. E. J. ROWELL, Medford, Mass.

Books on Blood and Skin diseases free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

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THE CHEAPEST AND BEST MEDICINE FOR FAMILY USE IN THE WORLD. NEVER FAILS TO RELIEVE PAIN.
Cures and Prevents Colds, Coughs, Sore Throat, Inflammation, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, Toothache, Asthma, Difficulty Breathing.
CURES THE WORST PAINS in from one to twenty minutes. Not one hour after reading this advertisement need any one SUFFER WITH PAIN.
INTERNAL USE: A half to a teaspoonful in half a tumbler of water will in a few minutes cure Cramps, Spasms, Sour Stomach, Nausea, Vomiting, Heartburn, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Sick Headache, Diarrhoea, Colic, Flatulency and all internal pains. 50c. Per Bottle. Sold by Druggists.

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Take according to directions they will restore health and renew vitality.
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A Farmer at Edom, Texas, says: "We are six in family. We live in a place where we are subject to violent Colds and Lung Troubles. I have used German Syrup for six years successfully for Sore Throat, Cough, Cold, Hoarseness, Pains in the Chest and Lungs, and spitting-up of Blood. I have tried many different kinds of cough Syrups in my time, but let me say to anyone wanting such a medicine—German Syrup is the best. That has been my experience. If you use it once, you will go back to it whenever you need it. It gives total relief and a quick cure. My advice to every one suffering with Lung Troubles—Try it. You will soon be convinced. In all the families—where your German Syrup is used we have no trouble with the Lungs at all. It is the medicine for this country."
John Franklin Jones.
G. C. GIFFIN, Sole Man'fr, Woodbury, N.J.
N. Y. N. U.—25

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It acts like a charm for Cholera Morbus, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Colic, Cramps, Nausea, Sick Headache, &c.
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Strongest and purest Lye made. Makes the best perfumed Hard Soap in 20 minutes without boiling. It is the best for softening water, cleansing waste pipes, disinfecting sinks, closets, washing bottles, paints, trees, etc.
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