

TREES NOTED FOR SPECIFIC VIRTUES AND USES.

SALLOW, excellent for hurdles, handles of hatchets, and shoemaker's boards. The honey of the catkins is good for bees, and the Highlanders use the bark for tanning leather.

SPRUCE TREE (The) will reach to the age of 1000 years and more. Spruce is despised by English carpenters, "as a sorry sort of wood."

SYCAMORE TREE, used by turners for bowls and trenchers. It bursts into leaf between March 28 and April 23.

St. Hierom, who lived in the Fourth Century, A. D., asserts that he himself had seen the sycamore tree into which Zaccheus climbed to see Jesus in His passage from Jericho to Jerusalem.

Strutt tells us of a sycamore tree in Cobham Park, Kent, 26 feet in girth and 90 feet high. Another in Bishop-ton, Renfrewshire, 20 feet in girth and 60 feet high.

Grass will flourish beneath this tree, and the tree will thrive by the sea side.

TAMARISK TREE does not dislike the sea-spray, and therefore thrives in the neighborhood of the sea.

The Romans used to wreath the heads of criminals with tamarisk withes. The Tartars and Russians make whip-handles of the wood.

The tamarisk is excellent for besoms.

UPAS TREE, said to poison everything in its vicinity. This is only fit for poetry and romance.

WALNUT, best wood for gunstocks; cabinet-makers use it largely.

This tree thrives best in valleys, and is most fertile when most beaten.

WHITETHORN, used for axle-trees, the handles of tools and turnery.

The identical whitethorn planted by Queen Mary of Scotland in the garden-court of the regent Murray, is still alive, and is about 5 feet in girth near the base.

The Troglodytes adorned the graves of their parents with branches of whitethorn. It formed the nuptial chaplet of Athenian brides, and the *fascis nuptiarum* of the Roman maidens.

WILLOW, used for clogs, ladders, trenchers, pill-boxes, milk-pails, butter-firkins, bonnets, cricket bats, hop-poles, cradles, baskets, crates, etc. It makes excellent charcoal, and a willow board will sharpen knives and other tools like a hone.

It is said that victims were enclosed in wicker-work made of willow wood, and consumed in fires by the Druids. Martial tells us that the old Britons were very skillful in weaving willows into baskets and boats. The shields which so long resisted the Roman legions were willow wood covered with leather.

WYCH ELM, once in repute for arrows and long-bows. Affords excellent wood for the wheeler and millwright. The

young bark is used for securing thatch and bindings, and is made into rope.

The wych elm at Polloc, Renfrewshire, is 88 feet high, 12 feet in girth, and contains 669 feet of timber. One at Tutbury is 16 feet in girth.

At Field, in Staffordshire, is a wych elm 120 feet high and 25 feet in girth about the middle.

YEW TREE. The wood is converted into bows, axle-trees, spoons, cups, cogs for mill-wheels, flood-gates for fish-ponds (because the wood does not soon decay) bedsteads (because bugs and fleas will not come near it). Gate-posts of yew are more durable than iron; the steps of ladders should be made of this wood; and no material is equal to it for market-stools. Cabinet-makers and in-layers prize it.

In Aberystwith churchyard is a yew tree 24 feet in girth, and another in Selborn churchyard of the same circumference. One of the yews at Fountain Abbey, Yorkshire, is 26 feet in girth; one at Aldworth, in Berkshire, is 27 feet in girth; one in Totteridge churchyard 32 feet; and one in Fortingal churchyard, in Perthshire (according to Pen-nant), is 52 feet in circumference (4 feet from the ground).

The yew tree in East Lavant churchyard is 31 feet in girth, just below the spring of the branches. There are five huge branches each as big as a tree, with a girth varying from 6 to 14 feet. The tree covers an area of 51 feet in every direction, and above 150 feet in circuit. It is above 1000 years old.

The yew tree at Martley, Worcester, is 346 years old, being planted three days before the birth of Queen Elizabeth. That in Harlington churchyard is above 850 years old. That at Ankerwyke, near Staines, is said to be the same under which King John signed the Magna Charta, and to have been the trysting-tree of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Three yew trees at Fountain Abbey, we are told, were full-grown trees in 1128, when the founders of the Abbey held council there in the reign of William Rufus. The yew tree of Braburn in Kent, according to De Candolle, is 3,000 years old!! It may be so, if it is true that the yew trees of Kingley Bottom, near Chichester, were standing when the sea-kings landed on the Sussex coast, and those in Norbury Park are the very same which were standing at the time of the ancient Druids.

Grass will grow beneath alder, ash, cypress, elm plane, and sycamore: but not beneath aspen, beech, chestnut, and fir.

Sea-spray does not injure sycamore or tamarisk.

Chestnut and olive never warp; larch is most apt to warp.

For posts the best woods are yew, oak, and larch; one of the worst is chestnut.

For picture-frames, maple, pear, oak, and cherry are excellent.

Fleas dislike alder, cedar, myrtle and yew; hares and rabbits never injure lime bark; moths and spiders avoid cedar; worms never attack juniper. Beech and ash are very subject to attacks of insects. Beech is the favorite of dormice, acacia of nightingales.

For binding faggots, the best woods are guelder rose, hazel, osier, willow and mountain ash.

Knives and all sorts of instruments may be sharpened on ivy roots, willow and holly wood as well as on a hone.

Birdlime is made from holly and the guelder rose.

Baskets are made of osier, willow and other wicker and withy shoots; besoms of birch, tamarisk, heath, etc.; hurdles, of hazel; barrels and tubs of chestnut and oak; fishing-rods of ash, hazel and blackthorn; gunstocks of maple and walnut; skewers of elder and skewer wood; the teeth of rakes of blackthorn, ash and the twigs called withy.

The best woods for turnery are box, alder, beech, sycamore and pear; for Tunbridge ware, lime; for wood carving, box, lime and poplar; for clogs, willow, alder and beech; for oars, ash.

Beech is called the cabinet-makers' wood; oak and elm, the ship-builders'; ash, the wheel-wrights'.

There are several beautiful lists of trees given by poets. For example, in Tasso, "Jerusalem Delivered," iii, at the end, where men are sent to cut down trees for the funeral pile of Dudon. In Statius, "The Thebaid," vi, where the felling of trees for the pile of the infant Archemorus is described. In Spenser, "Fairy Queen," l. i 8, 9, where the Red Cross Knight and the lady seen shelter during a storm, and much admire the forest trees.

THE INTELLIGENT Editor Louis F. OR THE UNINTEL- Post, in The Pub- LIGENT. lic of October 1,

1898, comes at THE CONSERVATIVE'S contention that "the rights of the unintelligent should be defined and defended by those who are intelligent" with great vigor. But Mr. Post does not deny that the rights of the ignorant ought to be "defined and defended." He merely denounces the injustice of exalting intelligence as the lexicographer for ignorance. Mr. Post and his Public having denied the right of definition and defence to the intelligent necessarily claim that the ability to determine "the rights of the unintelligent" belongs exclusively, and by virtue of their ignorance, to the aforesaid unintelligent themselves.

But THE CONSERVATIVE contends that successful self-government must be a government of the intelligent for the intelligent by the intelligent.