

## MENACE IN YULE TREES.

## Christmas Custom Called the Doom of the Forests.

The battle is on between the forests and the Christmas tree. Which shall be saved? The question is one that has been put forward by men who have watched the trade in small spruce and fir trees in the Chicago market for the last two weeks. The preservation of the forests is more important, they believe, than the Christmas tree. Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, who once lived in Wisconsin, is convinced that the people must give up the Christmas tree to save the forests. But to some anonymous champion of the spruce the crusade against Christmas trees owes its chief impetus. He has had printed and circulated the following:

Whereas. The custom of destroying young and tender trees for holiday festivities is on the increase among Christians:

Whereas. The abject of this destruction is a double one; first, to enable these Christians, adult and juvenile, to enjoy a mere childish and temporary pleasure, and second, to foster a long standing delusion that the Father in heaven is pleased to witness a thwarting of his efforts and a destruction of his works on earth:

Resolved. That man, the ignorant ingrate and dependent pauper upon the bounty of the trees, is not only acting the part of an unreasonable fool in his treatment of the trees, but he is acting the part of progressive suicide as well, for the trees are not only a conservers of the water, but a conservers of the air as well, and if man increases his mining and mechanical operations in the future the same as he has been doing in the past, the time will come where the ass will be unable to live on the earth at all. Hark yea people, if it were possible for the trees to assemble in a convention and pass some such resolution, would it not be a true indictment of man? Is it not a fact, then, that the growth of the trees on the mountain tops must keep pace with the growth of man in the valley? Finally people, I claim that you are not only acting contrary to your own material interest in your treatment of the trees, but you are acting contrary to the bible as well (Gen. i., 29). And God said: "Behold, I have given you every herb-bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed to you it shall be for meat."

## Jones Talks of Christmas Trees.

"Every tree that is being sold in the market," said Jenkin Lloyd Jones, "represents a growth of from ten to twenty years. The growth is slow. The great forests of Wisconsin are being denuded that the growing trees may

be shipped here for Christmas celebrations. It is one of the reforms that cries out for attention. From a purely economic standpoint it is an important question. The country becomes barren, the streams dry up and the land suffers. It seems that we are about to repeat the history of Palestine.

"It is no longer what it used to be—the cutting of a few trees for Christmas. We have introduced a new industry for which there is no adequate return. Christmas trees not only are not utilized as a product should be, but it may be said they are a menace to the safety of buildings.

"What will take the place of this tradition? That is a question to consider. And yet the Christmas tree is not a universal custom. Santa Claus might come down the chimney or in a sleigh or fill the stockings without it. I hope something may be done about this desolation of the forests. It is too late to do anything this year. I hope ministers will see fit to take up the question in their pulpits another year."

## Mrs. Henrotin Would Save Forests.

Mrs. Charles Henrotin, who has been a leader in the Christmas shopping crusade, said the matter of Christmas trees had not been called to her attention.

"I believe however," she said, "there is a growing sentiment against the ruthless destruction of trees. It seems to me rather a question of replanting trees than one of not using them for this purpose. If it is true that they cannot be grown in nurseries and that the native forests are despoiled to furnish Christmas trees. I should say we must find something to take their place."

J. S. Hoviland, 72 South Water street, said that only those people who do not know how the trees are cut or where they come from would object to a traffic in Christmas trees.

"They are a second growth, and many of them are taken from the swamps," he said, "They would never grow up to become valuable forest trees. The lumbermen are glad to have them out of the way. The men who cut them sometimes go out on the ice, and because there has been no ice this year is one reason it was hard to get them."

## Supply This Year is Small.

The business in Christmas trees is at its height this week. There will not be half as many for Chicago as for several years. The demand was greater than ever, but the supply was limited for several commercial reasons. The Christmas trees that come to Chicago by the carload and boatload are largely from the forests of northern Wisconsin, with a few from Michigan. They are second growth spruce and fir trees, from 10 to 25 years old. The tree grows so slowly that they pay better as Christmas trees

than for lumber. Trees that formerly sold at \$75 and \$100 a carload this year bring \$175 to \$200. The total number shipped to Chicago last year is estimated as eighty-seven carloads, and this year there will not be more than thirty-five carloads, according to the principal shipper.

The trees are cut largely by men whose business it is to guide hunters in the summer and fall. For several years the work has been done close to the railroads, and two men could cut down a carload in a day. One reason for the scarcity this year is that the districts have been stripped of trees and the cutters have had to go seven or eight miles back into the country.—Chicago Tribune, December 23, 1899.

## DR. JOHN A. WARDER.

The woodlands, forests, orchards and country homes of the United States never had a friend and benefactor more enthusiastic, efficient and honest than John A. Warder. In the early days of Nebraska Doctor Warder was often a guest of Governor Furnas at Brownville and a visitor at Arbor Lodge. He traversed all eastern Nebraska as a missionary, teaching arboriculture and forestry. He did a generous and great work for Nebraska.

In view of the foregoing facts it is agreeable to comply with the request of a friend and republish in THE CONSERVATIVE the following tribute to his character, pronounced January 24, 1884, before the Mississippi Valley Horticultural Society at Kansas City by J. Sterling Morton:

"As guests register their names at a hotel, depart, and are forgotten, so humanity, stopping for a short time on the earth, makes its autograph upon the age and sets out upon its returnless journey to that realm whence come neither tidings nor greetings.

"Each individual of the race leaves some trace of his existence on the generation in which he lives, and considerable numbers transmit their names to posterity italicised in good deeds or embalmed in noble and elevating thought.

"The desire to be remembered and esteemed by those who come after us seems to be, with the better and more exalted minds, a greater inspiration to high intellectual effort than the mere plaudits of contemporaries. As on the stage, those actors who play best their parts are recalled and applauded after the curtain has fallen, so those in the brief drama of life who have best performed their duties are, after their mortal costumes have been forever laid away in restful graves, again called out by their admiring contemporaries, and thus their intellectual and moral personalities reappear before the lights,