

**THE AMERICAN FOREST: OR,  
UNCLE PHILIP'S CONVERSATIONS  
WITH THE CHILDREN ABOUT THE  
TREES OF AMERICA**

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The American forest: or, Uncle Philip's conversations with the children about the trees of America by Lambert Lilly

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**LAMBERT LILLY**

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TO THE  
MESSRS. HARPERS, IN NEW-YORK.

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MY DEAR NEPHEWS :—

As you expressed a wish in your last letter to have our Conversations on Trees, of which I spoke on a former occasion, I now send them. Others may not like trees as much as your old Uncle does, and may therefore conclude that the children and I might have found a more agreeable subject; but I believe it did not prove tedious either to them or me. Indeed I have often been struck with the fact that children seldom become weary of having their attention directed to the objects of nature. I hope it will not be deemed time misspent to have taken some pains to acquaint them with the wealth and beauty of those magnificent forests which spread over the broad surface of our dear country. American children ought to know something of American trees: and when I look around upon the

wanton destruction of trees, of which too many of our countrymen are guilty, I confess that I am anxious to teach my dear children how to find interest in a tree, and to love it; it may make them pause ere they cut it down without necessity. You must excuse the natural feelings of age, and forgive an old man for pleading earnestly to have an old tree spared. I would have children's children sit under the same shade which sheltered their fathers. Good-bye.

Your affectionate

UNCLE PHILIP.

*Newtown, Sept. 1, 1834.*



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