# ROUND THE WORLD; VOL. VII

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Round the world; Vol. VII by Anonymous

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# ROUND THE WORLD; VOL. VII



# ROUND THE WORLD SERIES VOLUME VII

## ROUND THE WORLD

A Series of Interesting Illustrated Articles on a Great Variety of Subjects

VOLUME VII

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Trees, Historic, Wonderful, and Ordinary. Furs and Fur Hunters. German Folk Lore. Floating Mines. Catalina Island. Gold Mining in Mexico. Mountain Climbing in America. Old Style Writing. Canoes and Canoeing. Hunting Rubber in the American Tropics, Outdoor Bird-Taming. The Landmarks of Old Virginia.

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### CONTENTS

						PAGE
Trees, Historic, Wonder	FUL,	AND	On	DINAR	x	7
FURS AND FUR HUNTERS	0.1	*3			94	31
GERMAN FOLK LORE .	(6)	90	÷	90		49
FLOATING MINES	365	\$50	36	52	5.	65
SANTA CATALINA ISLAND		æ		2		.81
GOLD MINING IN MEXICO	6		120			95
MOUNTAIN CLIMBING - IN A	MERI	CA				115
OLD STYLE WRITING .	1.0					131
CANGES AND CANGEING		*11	*			141
HUNTING RUBBER IN THE	Аме	RICAN	Ti	topics		157
OUTDOOR BIRD-TAMING		9.5	×			175
THE LANDMARKS OF OLD	Vingi	NIA	4		2013	205

## Trees, Historic, Wonderful, and Ordinary

To walk unseeing among trees is to lose not only much of the beauty of Nature, but also the peace, rest, and beneficence of feeling, which a true appreciation of that wonderful mother gives to the human soul. They afford an almost inexhaustible subject to the pen and pencil of the writer and artist; their characteristics are so different, and so numerous, growing more and more interesting as one becomes familiar with their infinite variety.

That monarch of English and American trees, the oak, formed from the smallest beginnings, and needing a long period of time for the attainment of its perfection, is beautiful from the moment it begins to put forth the buds which later are to develop into a very wilderness of leaves. It is moreover, as modest as it is strong, as hardy as it is beautiful. The most widely scattered species known in England and America is the white oak, towering high above all its



Large Vew Tree of very great age near Kuchon, southern Shantung, China. Confucius is said to have rested under its shade. Its Circumference is 36 odd Feet.

companions and adapting itself to various conditions of soil and climate. It thrives best, however, on dry ground, though it also attains goodly proportions close to the water. And yet there are





persons, who, having the good fortune to possess an oak-tree will ruthlessly cut it down to make way for insignificant shrubs and bushes, excusing the vandalism by maintaining that it would, if left in the spot where Nature placed it, destroy the symmetry of the lawn or garden! To the true lover of trees there is nothing in all the world more typical of strength, endurance, and natural magnificence than a rugged-trunked, broad-branching, high-reaching oak, standing alone; for when crowded these trees do not give us their best effects; they need space, and the sunlight filtering through their branches, and a blue or opaline sky smiling down above them.

Sycamores, elms, and the various kinds of maples we also have in abundance; a volume might be written about the beauties, peculiarities, and various qualities of each. Of these the elm is beyond question the most attractive. It is an exceedingly graceful tree, introducing into any landscape a distinction and elegance not belonging to any other. Upright and strong, the free swing of its wide-spreading branches, make it plain to the observant mind that it was among the trees, "God's first temples," that