

**FOREST TREES, FOR SHELTER,
ORNAMENT AND PROFIT. A
PRACTICAL MANUAL FOR THEIR
CULTURE AND PROPAGATION**

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Forest Trees, for Shelter, Ornament and Profit. A Practical Manual for Their Culture and Propagation by Arthur Bryant

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ARTHUR BRYANT

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The Hemlock Spruce.

FOREST TREES,

FOR

SHELTER, ORNAMENT and PROFIT.

A

PRACTICAL MANUAL

FOR

THEIR CULTURE AND PROPAGATION.

By ARTHUR BRYANT, Sr.

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P R E F A C E .

The present work was undertaken at the solicitation of some friends of the author, who felt the need of a more thorough and practical compend upon Forest Culture than any now before the public. The writer has from boyhood interested himself in the planting of trees, and while he cannot boast of very extensive operations in their culture, he hopes that the results of his own observation and experience, combined with what he has been able to collect from other sources, may constitute a work acceptable to those interested in the subject.

Forest culture in America is yet in its infancy. The energies of our rural population have hitherto been largely employed in the extermination of the woods; and it is but recently that the necessity of their partial reproduction has attracted any considerable attention. Time and experience, particularly in the prairie regions, will doubtless develop new facts in regard to the adaptation of the more valuable kinds of timber to the different soils. Species now little known may hereafter be extensively cultivated.

This work is designed for the northern portion of the United States, extending westward to the Rocky Mountains and south-

ward to include Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas. The vast treeless plains of the West, offer an almost limitless field for forest planting, and the States of Kansas and Nebraska are already taking the lead in the enterprise.

All, or nearly all the trees native within the limits assigned to this work are noticed, together with a considerable number of foreign origin.

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to the works of G. P. Marsh, Gray, Loudon, Michaux, Meehan, Hoopes, and others, for much valuable information. The botanical descriptions have been mostly taken, with slight change, from the works of Gray and Loudon. Acknowledgments are also due for assistance in various ways from personal friends of the author.

While it has been thought best to adopt a scientific arrangement and description of the trees noticed, no pains have been spared to render the practical part as plain and thorough as possible. Although the leading object of the work is to describe and recommend the culture of valuable timber trees, their ornamental character has not been neglected, and many are noticed of little worth for any but ornamental purposes.

The author has long regarded the reproduction of the more valuable forest trees, by means of artificial plantations, as a matter of great national importance. Should this work in any degree aid in so desirable an object, he will feel that the labor bestowed upon it has not been thrown away.

CHAPTER I.



INTRODUCTION.

It is admitted that Trees are essential to civilization, and the fact is acknowledged that man cannot advance in improvement beyond the rudest form of pastoral life, without the use of timber. The question next arises, whether or not our countrymen will go on recklessly destroying an article of absolute necessity and immense daily consumption, without regard to a source of future supply? The rapid destruction of our forests within the past few years is really appalling. The State of New York, which, not many years since, exported great quantities of pine lumber, now obtains a supply for home consumption from abroad. The forests of Maine are said to be so completely stripped, that scarcely a pine tree of old growth is to be seen. At the present rate of consumption, the pine woods of the Northwestern States are likely to be exhausted in less than twenty-five years. It

was estimated that the amount of lumber cut in 1869, in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, was 3,311,372,255 feet. To obtain this quantity, 883,032 acres, or 1,380 square miles, were stripped of their trees. The destruction of hard-wood forests is likewise very rapid. There is a constantly increasing demand for valuable kinds of timber for the manufacture of machinery, farming implements, furniture, railway cars and wooden work of every description. Millions of ties, and millions of cords of firewood, are annually required by railroads. There can be no doubt that previous to the settlement of Central and Northern Illinois, the quantity of timber was annually diminished by the ravages of fire. When these ravages were in a measure stopped, a dense growth of young trees sprang up in the scattered woodlands, and twenty years since there was more wood than at the first settlement of the country. With the introduction of railroads commenced the destruction of the forests. It may safely be estimated that two-thirds of the full-grown timber in Northern Illinois has been destroyed within eighteen years past. Tracts of thriving young wood, whose annual growth added at least ten per cent to its value, have been cleared for firewood. The destruction still goes on. Such is the instability of our population, that woodlands which have been long preserved by their owners, sooner or later pass into the possession of those who, impatient to enjoy their value, and reckless of other considerations, ruthlessly fell them. Much of the land thus bared is of little value for any other purpose