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## TELLING A TREE'S AGE.

Trying to Disprove the Theory of Telling It by the Ring Marks.

Although forestry experts in Europe for more than a century have held the theory of determining the age of a tree by the ring markings to be absolutely reliable, many attempts have been made in this country to disprove it. To give its official support to the theory the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture has just issued a pamphlet on "The Annual Ring."

These yearly rings, in addition to being sufficiently well defined to be readily counted, are alternately bands of lighter and darker colors, the former being the "spring wood," as it is known to forestry experts, while the latter is the "summer wood." The rings in a tree grown in a park or under generally favorable conditions are in marked contrast to those in trees which were hampered when young—so marked, indeed, as to readily be noticed. In width the rings vary from one-eighth inch to three-eighths inch in hard woods to from one-twentieth inch to one-eighth inch in conifers.

In the determination of the age of a tree, or of a particular section, it is desirable to make a clean, smooth cut; and in trees like poplar and willow, and even in birch, it is most convenient to cut out the particular cross section and allow it to dry before the counting is attempted. In many woods, if of thrifty growth, a clean saw cut is sufficient, and the aid of the knife may be dispensed with. Generally a magnifying glass of some kind is helpful, and in many cases indispensable, while with extraordinary specimens even a compound microscope will be needed. The counting is best done along the greatest radius, since the rings are plainest along this line; all covered wounds or other obstacles should be avoided. It will also be found helpful to mark every tenth or twentieth ring with pencil to avoid repetition in case of interruption, and zones of very narrow rings, such as occur in the outermost portions of old stems, will usually require repeated counting.

European foresters have proven the correctness of the theory by tens of thousands of countings in the last fifty years on trees where time of seeding, planting, etc., were accurately known from permanent records.

And these have not only been made from European species, but also from trees indigenous to America.

The Forestry pamphlet also contains some interesting facts about the determining of at what period in a tree's growth surveyor's blazes, wounds, and knots were made. Although many trees bear no outward evidences of these, the time of their being made can generally be estimated to within six months.

Selecting Trees for Their Colors.

It is one of the marvels of trees that every species bears its own mark in every part, root and branch, bark and leaf as well as fruit. A wise elder told us the other day the species of oak from which an acorn came by the fine tracery on the acorn's cup. Such a riot of colors and tints there is in the falling leaves that one might think the colors are accidental. But the keynote of color is constant in any species, with only exceptional variations. The mistress of a mass in the Virginia valley once went into the woods and selected her young trees by their colors, and those colors they still wear in each returning fall. The birches are a golden yellow, while the oaks vary through yellow-orange to a reddish brown. The red maple sheds at the last a dark-red leaf and the tulip tree a light yellow. The hawthorn and the poison oak are violet, while the sumac and the wild vines take on a flaming scarlet. Soil will make some variations, and a dry season will almost take the color and beauty altogether away.

Poultry Prepared for a Journey.

All kinds of poultry should be placed in water when first dressed, unless they are dry-packed and are to be packed and shipped without ice. In that case the heads and feet should be carefully washed, but the body kept perfectly dry. Turkeys and all kinds of poultry intended for distant markets should be dry-picked. They stand the journey better and look nicer when they arrive in market, and consequently bring a better price. It pays to pick and pack poultry carefully, for this is what counts in markets and pays well for the extra work. Never ship a mixed lot of poultry in one box. Sort all lots carefully, and have all nearly the same size together; the poor ones in a box by themselves, or else the poor ones will cause the lot to go at a low figure.

Evidence of a Copper Age.

Berthelot, the French chemist, finds that the copper objects found at Négadah and Abydos, in Egypt, are of pure copper, not bronze. They are believed to date from the first dynasty or earlier, and tend to prove the past existence of a copper before the bronze age.

## A Truthful Statement.

An excellent and invaluable remedy, for the cure of cough, cold and hoarseness, is Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, and Mr. Jas. Hadfield, 350 West St., New York City, verifies this statement. He writes: "Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is a most excellent remedy for cough, cold and hoarseness, and I take great pleasure in recommending it to all, who require such a valuable household medicine." Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is sold everywhere for 25 cents.

## THE QUIET HOUSE.

Oh, mothers, worn and weary  
With cares that never cease,  
With never time for pleasure,  
With days that have no peace;  
With little hands to hinder,  
And feeble steps to guard,  
With tasks that lie unfinished,  
Deem not your lot too hard.

I know a house where playthings  
Are hidden out of sight;  
No sound of childish footsteps  
Is heard from room till night;  
No tiny hands to litter,  
That pull things all awry;  
No baby hurries to pity  
As the quiet days go by.

And she, the sad-eyed mother—  
What would she give to-day  
To feel your cares and burdens,  
To walk your weary way?  
Ah! happy she, yes blessed,  
Could she again but see  
The rooms all strewn with playthings,  
And the children round her knee!

## THOU SHALT NOT.

"Is it nothing to you that my whole happiness lies at your mercy? Am I only one more of the many you have flirted with, and then smiled aside as if they were children? Ah! God never created any creature more cruel than a beautiful coquette without heart! Do not deny it! You have used every charm you possess to make me love you, and have succeeded. You shall listen to me now. I love you! I love you! I love you! Nay, do not speak. I will not take your final answer to-day. To-morrow I will come for it. Ah, if it is 'Yes,' I swear that you shall never regret it. If it is 'No,' then you will have sent one more man to hell!" and without another word Jack Armstrong turned on his heel and left abruptly. Hilda Phare looked after his retreating figure with a vague sense of shame. She had won the love of the "woman hater," but the victory was leaving a sting in even her hardened coquette conscience, though she tried to feel herself aggrieved at his outbreak.

"As if I can help men falling in love with me. I cannot marry them. I certainly do like Captain Armstrong, but I don't like matrimony. I want to keep my freedom a little longer first. A pretty girl can at any time easily get engaged, but it requires an ugly girl to easily get disengaged, so that even beauty has its drawbacks," she concluded, with a little soft laugh. Then, with the unconscious desire to drive the recent interview from her mind, she took up a society paper and soon forgot all the crumpled roseleaves of her happy careless life in the pleasure of reading a description of the dress the "beautiful Miss Phare wore at the queen's ball, where, as the belle of the season she was the cynosure of all eyes."

"My dear Hilda, have you heard the dreadful news!" The girl looked up from the comfortable wicker chair, where she was reclining lazily under the shade of the old oak on the lawn.

"No, what news?" she asked, indifferently, for her portly aunt's face looked more important than horrified, as she stood by her niece's side, holding a large white and green lined sunshade over her bare head.

"Mrs. Chester shot her husband and that pretty Miss Done yesterday afternoon, and then killed herself."

"O, how dreadful! What made her do it?" exclaimed Hilda, thoroughly roused now, as she sat bolt upright in her chair.

"Well, it appears that she caught him kissing this Miss Done, to whom he had been engaged before he married his wife for her money. Fancy shooting both of them like that!"

"What a wicked, cruel woman Mrs. Chester must have been. It was only yesterday morning I rode over to Hill Hall to see her new Paris dress. It is quite horrible to think that I have touched the hand of a murderer," and the girl gave a shudder.

"Yes, it is indeed. I am so very sorry for their poor little daughter, but, of course, I can never allow Jessie and Pussie to play with her again. I must go now, for I want to write and tell your Aunt Mary all about it. She will be so interested—shocked, I mean," and she returned to the house with that feeling of pleasurable importance we all experience when we are the first to tell the news of some calamity that has befallen our friends.

Left to herself, Hilda sank back in the wicker chair and tried by reading to distract her thoughts once more, but this time from thinking of the tragedy at Hill Hall. The heat, however, made her drowsy, and the paper soon dropped on the grass from the nerveless fingers, and the lids soon dropped over the beautiful eyes.

Suddenly a choking sensation caught the sleeper's throat. She tried to move, but could not. Was she dying—dying out there alone on the lawn? She felt her breath coming quicker and quicker, her strength ebbing faster and faster. Then she seemed to lose all consciousness.

"Where was she now? Who were those?" she asked one standing beside her.

"They are the souls of the dead waiting till the day dawns and the golden gates are opened."

"Then I must be dead, and those must be the gates of heaven, that beautiful place I used to like reading about when a child. I will join the throng and go in with them."

And when the day dawned she also pressed forward towards those golden gates, guarded by angels, but though

## DISCURSUS NEWS.

What Our Friends in the Surrounding Parishes are Doing.

From the Special Correspondent.

Corning.

In addressing this week a rather large and growing circle of readers, I feel myself bound to make clear a matter which seems to be not very well understood. Let me say, at once and for all time, that the DISCURSUS is not an organ of "charity" which I want to spread or to wear myself on injuries real or fancied. As this column is intended for the entertainment of Catholics of refinement and cultivation, so everything that appears in it is written in a spirit of Catholicity and good will to all, and will, I hope, be read in that spirit. I must beg my readers to make a distinction between a playful dig and a venomous thrust. There is the same difference between humor and sarcasm that there is between Mark Twain and William J. Bryan. I have always flattered myself that I am not superficial, and that my pen is far from me and I flatter myself I may have imagined that there were some few friends who knew me and whom I knew well enough to make possible pointed jokes at their expense. I have got rid of the illusion and no longer "lay that battering cannon to my soul," as Hamlet says. With these few remarks we will now, as the comedians say before the curtain, proceed with the play of "Life in Corning."

Dr. Francis U. Mylleton Sunday night for Ellensburg where he will practice his profession. He takes with him the best wishes of all many friends in this city.

James A. Rooney, a young glass cutter who lives on West Third Street, staggered into his home late on Wednesday night of last week with blood streaming down his face from a gash extending across his cheek to the ear. He was in a dazed condition and could give no account of what had happened to him further than the statement that he had been to a saloon near Centerville and remembered returning on a street car which he left at the corner of State and Market streets. Between there and his home some one had evidently assaulted him with a rather sharp instrument which subsequent investigation indicates to have been a shaver. Dr. McQuinn, who was summoned, examined the wound and found that it was not serious. A examination of the route Rooney had taken after leaving the street car discovered a pool of blood at the corner of State and First streets. Some people passing that way late Wednesday night told of seeing two men having what appeared to be a quarrel and of hearing one say to another, "What did I ever do to you?" The police then connected with the assault the name of William Murray, a big-sized colored man, who employed by Mr. Carr, who resides on the corner of State and First streets. Murray is known to have been drinking snow from Mr. Carr's sidewalk late on Wednesday night. Murray has disappeared since the affair, and the police are unable to locate him. Meanwhile, no information can be got out of Rooney as to what happened, and until Murray is found and made to tell his side of the story the affair seems likely to remain a mystery.

D. C. Keadle left on Saturday for Newberry, Pa., where he will become assistant night yardmaster for the Erie railroad. Mr. Keadle has many friends here who wish him much happiness and success in his new work.

The sudden death of James McGivern on Wednesday evening, the 25th ult., was a shock to his many friends. He had only been ill two weeks with typhoid pneumonia. He was 32 years of age, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James McGivern of West First street, and was unmarried. He was a glass cutter by trade and a popular young man among his associates. All lovers of home ball in this section of the country knew him well as "McGivern's" McGivern, a remarkably clever player on all the best teams that generally go with ball playing. It was an impressive and at times sorrowful in his case of friends and kindly consideration as he was in swinging the bat or throwing "bat" his name on second. Later he has not played much, but often occupied at games in this city as umpire. The funeral was held on Friday morning at St. Mary's church. A high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. Father Lee, and was very largely attended. The pall bearers were Edward Boyce, John Watson, Thomas Clark, Richard Tobin, Samuel Conquest and Cliff O'Brien.

The Alliance Musical company is rehearsing daily and expects to make a great hit on the evening stage, which will be about the middle of February. The company, after leaving Corning, will show in Elmira and in Watkinsburg, Pa.

Miss Clara Kelly, pianist, entertained her friends on Tuesday evening with progressive euchre. The prize winners were Mr. John Clark and Miss Maggie Wade.

A very enjoyable hop was given on Friday evening at Kelly's new store on East Market street, and the amusement of Mr. Mary's Aid society. The dance was light and sprightly, and an excellent supper was provided by the ladies.

William Murray, the assailant of James Rooney, was captured at Elmira in a saloon early Sunday morning. Murray, who admitted that he struck Rooney with the shaver, he was using, says that the latter called him a "nigger," and used a vile adjective with the same. He also says that he did not offer to hit Rooney until after the latter made a pass at him. Murray was placed under \$1,000 bail, and was taken to Bath Monday afternoon to await the action of the grand jury. Rooney walked away from the saloon, from which the assault was made, without a scratch, and is expected to move home.

Thomas O'Brien is reported to be seriously ill.

Miss Anna Fernan spent Sunday with friends in Elmira.

M. F. Kelly visited in Elmira Sunday.

(Continued on 8th page.)

## A Peerless Liniment.

A pain destroyer and cure for rheumatism, Salivation Oil is the peer of all liniments. Mr. Wm. J. Brown, proprietor of Stieglinger House, Cleveland, O., writes: "I suffered from rheumatism for twelve years and my last attack kept me in bed, unable to walk. I used Salivation Oil and soon was up and about. As a pain destroyer this liniment has no equal. Salivation Oil is sold everywhere for 25 cents. Try it and be cured."

For Sale at 25c per Bottle.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Brown.

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## STEAMING HOT

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Extract of

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