

behind the nursery. It is warm, and James can take care of him if he needs anything."

Aunt Mary had spoken; the wayfaring man was taken to the comfortable room back of the nursery. Then the doctor's folks went home, the small boys went to bed, the older members of the family fol-

lowed, and the wild March wind shrieked and howled above the chimney-tops, shook the shivering limbs of the trees, hurled the snow and sleet against the window-panes, and neither knew nor cared what was hidden beneath the roof it was trying so hard to blow away.

*E. C. Gardner.*

[To be continued.]

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## THE ADIRONDACK FORESTS.

THE preservation of the Adirondack forests involves an economic question of great public interest to the people of New York. These forests, or their remnants, cover the high and broken Adirondack plateau;—a region of heavy rain-fall, low mean annual temperature, and poor and barren soil. This region, which embraces all the country from the shores of Lake Champlain to the valley of the Black river on the west, and from the Mohawk, north to the St. Lawrence plain, is a great natural reservoir, from which flow the principal streams of the State.

The Adirondack forests have three distinct and valid claims for care and consideration at the hands of the public. The first of these, and the most important, is this: Forests retard evaporation from the surface of the ground, and thus store up and hold the moisture discharged from clouds, and furnish rivers a constant and regular supply of water. It is important, therefore, that high and broken ground, where the precipitation of moisture is always greater than at the sea-level, and where great rivers take their rise, should be permanently covered with forests. The chief argument for the preservation of the Adirondack forests must rest upon the fact that they are necessary to the existence of many important streams which head among them, and which will be seriously injured, and perhaps ruined by the denudation of their water-sheds. The Adirondack rivers already feel the effects of forest destruction in increasing freshets and diminished summer water-supply. Many of the small streams disappear entirely every year; and it is evident that if the devastation which has already turned large areas about the borders of the forest into dangerous deserts is allowed to extend to the slopes of the higher mountains, serious consequences must ensue from the ruin of

great rivers of widespread and far-reaching influence.

These forests should be preserved for their influence upon the flow of the rivers of the State, if for no other reason; and this in itself is a matter of such great and vital importance that it is hardly necessary to mention any others. There are, however, two excellent additional economic reasons why all of that portion of northern New York which is occupied by the Adirondacks plateau should be kept as a great forest. It is adapted by nature to produce forests and nothing else. It is unfit for agriculture, and all attempts to make of it a farming or grazing country have resulted in disastrous failure. The cold and barren soil refuses to produce more than one or two scanty crops; and starvation soon drives the settler to seek fresh fields of operation. It is a forest region, and nothing else, and as a forest region, so long as the forests are protected from fire,—their worst enemy,—it is of immense value to the community.

These forests make the whole region pleasant and attractive, and draw to it every year thousands of visitors or travelers who spend there, in the aggregate, large sums of money, and give employment to whole communities, who are supported in caring for the tourists who visit this region for rest and recreation, or to enjoy the forests and what the forest can give them.

If these forests, however, are allowed to perish, and the devastation of the borders extends over the whole region, the Adirondacks will cease to be a great summer resort; the public will lose the benefit of a health and pleasure resting-place hardly surpassed in the United States in beauty, accessibility, and extent; a great and permanent industry capable of vast future development will be irrevocably ruined,

and the persons who conduct it will be forced to find other occupations.

The third claim of the Adirondack forests for preservation is, also, in a purely economic sense, well founded.

The lumber-product of this region is considerable; it depends, of course, upon the continuance of the forests. If they are allowed to burn up, and the soil which supports them is destroyed, there will be no more lumber manufactured in northern New York, the general lumber supply of the country will be reduced, and a considerable population who are now supported by preparing for market the products of the Adirondack forests will be deprived of their means of existence.

There are, therefore, three reasons, looking at this matter from a purely business point of view, why these forests should be preserved. They protect rivers necessary for the commercial prosperity of the State; they attract visitors, who bring money into the State, and so give employment to a large population, and they produce lumber needed by the community, and which, in the production, gives employment to many men.

It is easy to show why the Adirondack forests should be preserved. It is a much more difficult matter to inaugurate and put into execution any system for accomplishing this result. The greatest difficulty which stands in the way of forest preservation in this particular region is found in the apathy and ignorance of its inhabitants in regard to the value of the forests to themselves as a community. They have gone on for years seeing the forests burn up before their eyes, without protest and without effort to stop the devastations until it has become a matter of course for them to look upon forest destruction as inevitable. They do not realize that these forests are all they possess in the world; that the prosperity of the entire community is dependent upon them; and that, as a community, they must perish with the forests. The lumbermen cannot believe that these forests can be made perpetually productive under a system of selection in cutting, and that unless such a system is introduced their entire productive capacity will be destroyed. The owners of the hotels, the guides, boatmen, and teamsters, the army of men who look after the summer tourists, do not realize that it is the forests, and the forests only, which make the Adirondacks pleasant, and that when the forests are all

burned up there will be no more travelers to take care of, and that their occupation will be gone. If the people who own the forests, and those who live upon them, could be made to understand their dependence upon them it would not be difficult to build up, upon local public sentiment, an effective system of forest management and protection. The first efforts of those persons who desire the preservation of these forests will be wisely devoted to increasing the knowledge and arousing the interest of the inhabitants of northern New York in their forests. They, next to the population living on the shores of the Hudson river, are most interested in their preservation. Knowledge of this sort comes slowly to a community; too often it comes too late. Fortunately, in this case, the State of New York is already in possession of a considerable part of these forests. It is easier for a State than it is for an individual to inaugurate and execute a system of control intended to develop and perpetuate the forest; and if such a system can be adopted for the care of these State lands, it will at least remove them from immediate danger, and gradually, it is to be hoped, bring about the introduction of better methods of forest management upon the neighboring lands of individuals.

New York already owns great forests extending over and protecting the watersheds of rivers of the greatest commercial importance. It is, therefore, in an exceptional position for testing the possibility of State forest management. The experiment can be made without any great outlay of money and without inflicting injury upon invested rights of any sort. If forest protection in the Adirondack region can be made successful, the material prosperity of the State will be increased, and the result will be felt from one end of the continent to the other.

The Adirondack forest is the arena where the future of the forests of the country will be decided. If they cannot be preserved it is useless to hope that scientific forest management can be adopted, during this generation, at least, in any part of the United States. The question is one of national import, and the action of the present Legislature of New York in this matter will be watched with deep interest by all persons who have the future prosperity of the country at heart.

*C. S. Sargent.*

I have been a practical horticulturist for over twenty years, and know by experience that disastrous droughts occur with increasing frequency as the country is denuded of trees. To a lover and student of nature it is scarcely possible to understand how even a pot-house politician can be so short-sighted and utterly reckless in regard to the future of the country as to be indifferent to the wasting of our forests. Certainly those who have the interests of the State at heart should not neglect the plain and imperative duty of preserving large tracts of woodland as reservoirs of moisture. I truly believe that destructive forest fires will prove more disastrous in the end than conflagrations in cities; for, after all, cities depend on the country. I believe that the simple law of self-preservation should lead the State to make ample provision to cope with this consuming element, and that stolid, ignorant men, whose one principle of action is, "After me the flood," should be met with stern, definite law in their disposition, like the locusts of Egypt, to destroy every green thing. The time will come when we shall learn that not only must mountain forests be preserved, but good arable land given up to groves, in order to secure the rain-fall essential to our crops.

*E. P. Roe.*

CORNWALL-ON-THE-HUDSON, NEW YORK, Feb. 10, 1885.

You have my hearty sympathy in your efforts to stay the hand of the destroyer in the Adirondack forests. We are perhaps the most wantonly destructive people under the sun. We sweep away vast forests without a moment's thought of the deleterious effect upon our rivers and water-courses.

I read in Herodotus that the ancient Persians held rivers in such veneration that they would not even wash their hands in them or spit in them for fear of corrupting them. We not only empty all our mountains of filth in them, but we throttle them, cut them off in their sources, by stripping the land of its forest covering. The land in the Adirondack wilderness is comparatively worthless for agricultural purposes, and the destruction of its forests would be an irreparable injury to the State, as well as a blot upon the face of the earth.

*John Burroughs.*

WEST PARK, NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1885.

This matter is one not of local, but of national importance. In my judgment, the State of New York could better afford, as a mere matter of physical prosperity, to let its great city be burned flat to the ground, from the Battery to the Harlem, than to let the Adirondack hills be stripped of their covering. If New York city were totally destroyed by fire to-day, its imperial mastery of American commerce would cause it to be rebuilt, fairer and larger than ever, within the space of ten years, as, indeed, Chicago has been after its great wreck. But no man can estimate the extent or the duration of the calamities, that would spring from the destruction of these forests by the greed of lumber speculators

*Francis A. Walker.*

MASSACHUSETTES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,  
BOSTON, Jan. 31, 1885.

The preservation of forests is one of those duties which only the very thoughtful and provident are likely to urge. The thoughtless, who form the bulk of the community, are always ready to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. The idea of present gain absorbs them. Their intense selfishness cries, "After me, the deluge;" and the few who call for a helpful consideration of the future are seldom heard. What is the advantage of health and comfort for posterity to the man who can sell his wood on his acres for a thousand dollars? All the blessings of life to innumerable families kick the beam on his balance when that thousand-dollar bill is placed on the other scale. Legislation in this direction of Providence is therefore always slow, and they who seek it have a very severe task. They are the few fanatics, who believe in the golden rule and also in common-sense. They are, nevertheless, the few fanatics who salt this world from corruption and perdition.

Any observing and well-informed man must see that the Adirondack region is a magnificent reservoir of health, for the valleys of the Mohawk and Hudson, supply water both for the rivers and for the rain-fall. It is, moreover, a sanitarium for refugees from city heats and business cares, readily accessible from some of the largest centers of busy life. If the forests of the Adirondacks be removed, all this priceless advantage is gone. Agriculture, commerce, and the public health will all

suffer over an area of fifty thousand square miles and a population of four millions. The work of stripping the mountains has begun and has advanced. Now is the moment to save this source of health and wealth. Laws restraining the vandalism should at once be passed by the New York Legislature. Most effective penalties should be attached to their breach. The higher power should interfere and make private gains subordinate to the public welfare. Only in this way can the prospective stoppage of mills, drying up of rivers, parching of the soil, failure of crops, contraction of commerce, spread of malaria, and increase of the death-rate be avoided. Will the Legislature of New York be wise—or otherwise?

*Howard Crosby.*

NEW YORK, Feb. 5, 1885.

I am glad that you mean to draw attention to the necessity of protecting the Adirondack forests. All forests covering the regions where the great rivers of the country take their rise ought to be carefully preserved. Most of our large streams have their sources in one or more States or Territories, and traverse several others on their way to the sea. These latter have a deep interest in preserving the sources unimpaired, but they have not the power, since the region is out of their jurisdiction. The central government may, therefore, reasonably be called upon to interpose for their relief. In New York the case is different. Not only the sources of the Hudson, but its entire course, lie within her territory, so that her future is in her own hands. If she wishes to secure an even and moderate flow of waters in that important stream she will carefully watch over the forests where it springs; if she wishes to see it capricious, fitful, and dangerous, now swelling with freshets and now dwindling into a scanty current, a peril in the spring floods, and robbed of half its value in the summer droughts, she will abandon the Adirondacks to be laid bare by fire and the axe. Considered as a measure of practical utility, the preservation of the forests that shelter the sources of the Hudson calls imperatively for legislative attention. Considered as a matter of feeling and taste, none but the dullest materialism can be indifferent to it.

*Francis Parkman.*

BOSTON, Feb. 5, 1885.

Kings and noblemen are accustomed to have sanitariums and retreats, and why should not the people? Especially why not if a great water-way of commerce will thereby be made more serviceable? If the great State of New York can and will do for its citizens and those of the neighboring States what the General Government is doing for the whole country, but more especially for the West, it will be an honor to the State and a benefit for all time.

*Mark Hopkins.*

WILLIAMS COLLEGE,  
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, Feb. 9, 1885.

I beg leave to say that I am too much occupied with public business to express at any length the views I entertain in regard to the preservation of the Adirondack forests. The discussion of the subject, however, which has taken place in the public journals, and in the official reports which have been printed from time to time, leave no doubt in my mind that the State of New York ought to take prompt and efficient steps to prevent the further destruction of the trees, and to guard its property in such wise as will make it of value to the State not only as a sanitarium and a pleasure-ground, but as the source of its water supply for the Erie canal. I am in full sympathy with the efforts which have been made to this end, and regret that I have not been able to take an active part in the movement for the preservation of a domain so fortunately situated for the recreation of our citizens.

*Abram S. Hewitt.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 5, 1885.

Under certain circumstances, it is the plain duty of the government of a State to make efficient arrangements for the preservation and regulation of forests. The grounds of this duty are the same with those on which rest the duties of preparing to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, restrict crime, limit epidemics, or otherwise guard citizens from evils with which it is impracticable for them to contend privately by voluntary association or without scientific guidance.

The time has come when this duty should be accepted by the State of New York with respect to the Adirondack forests. The means now proposed for the

purpose have been well considered, and are moderate and economical.

The profit to the State that will *incidentally* result from preserving and enlarging the value of the region as a resort for recreation and health will be of constantly increasing importance.

The adoption of the measure will be a step in civilization for which the time is ripe.

*Frederick Law Olmsted.*

BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS, Jan. 31, 1885.

I am in hearty accord with the measures on foot for the preservation of the forests of the Adirondack.

While I have never visited them as yet, I have many friends accustomed to do so, and have heard their glowing accounts of the healthfulness and pleasures of that vast region.

I have not the time, however, to furnish you more in detail my views on the subject, as requested in your letter.

*E. G. Lapham.*

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 9, 1885.

The Adirondack forests are invaluable, in my judgment, not merely because they supply lumber, but because they furnish sanitary elements indispensable to New York State. Outside of the question of using the forests for a grand respite for wearied people from the cities, my observation in foreign countries, notably along the Mediterranean, and most especially in Spain, Judea, and Asia Minor, leads me to believe that the denuding of the land of timber is a sure way to invite barbarism, unthriftiness, and every element that belongs to a laggard people. Every fiber that grows in our forests, therefore, particularly in New York, is indispensable to health, to navigation, to comfort, and delectation.

*S. S. Cox.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 5, 1885.

I have some very clear and strong convictions on the subject of forestry laws:—

1. We are destroying our timber at a frightful rate, mortgaging our future, and foreclosing the mortgage, and living on our children, by our extravagance and unwisdom. By our absurd tariff on foreign lumber we

are actually giving a premium to men to cut down what we ought to be trying to save. The first thing for us to do is to admit lumber free of duty. Now we can take Canadian lumber and put our own price upon it; if we wait until we have exhausted our own forests, we must buy it at the seller's price.

2. It is impossible for the government, either State or National, to purchase the timber lands, and so secure their preservation. It may be wise for New York to buy enough for the great park in the Adirondacks, though I confess myself in doubt about such a policy. At all events, this will not be a cure for the present evil. We must abandon totally, as we have already abandoned in part, the notion that a man may do what he will with his own; we must recognize the truth that the rights of society are the supreme rights, and that, as we may and do prohibit the shooting of game in certain seasons, in order that we may preserve game, so we may prohibit the cutting of timber, except under restrictions and limitations as to size and proportion, etc. In order that we may protect our forests I would have every State appoint a forestry commission, with power to make, or at all events to devise and submit to the legislature, rules for the regulation of timber-cutting and the preservation of forests, equally applicable to private and public lands; and I would have a "forest warden" or "wardens" appointed, as we now have game constables, to enforce these regulations and prohibitions.

3. There should be some comity and conjoint action between the States, or else action by the National Government; and this would require, I suppose, a constitutional amendment. At present, the reckless destruction of the forests in the Alleghanies in Pennsylvania threatens the whole valley of the Ohio with alternate flood and drought, and only by some conjoint action can this evil, inflicted on one State by the selfishness or folly of another, be prevented, or even checked.

I am very glad you are taking this matter up, and I wish it were possible for me to render you more efficient service.

*Lyman Abbott.*

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 7, 1885.

I am glad of the opportunity to express my hope that the Adirondacks will never

be interfered with by the worshippers of real estate and manufactories. To cut down those forests would not make a single poor man less poor; but it would seriously and permanently impoverish a large portion of the inhabitants of this country; and the wealth of which it would deprive them is wealth of a kind more valuable than can be expressed in terms of dollars and cents. The mere knowledge that such a place as the Adirondacks had ceased to exist would be a cause of genuine sorrow even to those who had never personally enjoyed the pleasure and refreshment of being there. The spirit which would destroy these splendid regions is a squalid and unhandsome spirit, which, should it be indulged, will reflect lasting discredit upon our country. Europe might well ask whether America be not large enough, morally as well as physically, to forbear to perpetrate so short-sighted and stupid an outrage as this. No true American will give his support to such a scheme; and I cannot but think that it would meet with a veto practically unanimous could means of giving expression to the popular opinion be devised. I myself have never visited the Adirondack region, and may, perhaps, never find an opportunity to do so; and it is not on my own account that I speak, but in behalf of the commonwealth, the common health, and of the posterity for whose sake we exist.

*Julian Hawthorne.*

SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK, Feb. 1, 1885.

There exist the strongest economic reasons why the great forests of the Adirondack region should be preserved: they are the magnets of clouds, the regulators of storms, a reservoir of rains, and a rush of streams; they should be protected as a perpetual source of lumber supply, as well as a guard against extensive climatic changes, terrible freshets and terrible droughts, which are known to be the disastrous results of the destruction of forests in some other parts of the world. But they have higher than mere material uses; and we should urge the preservation of that vast natural park, with all its wildness and beauty, for the sake of health and sanity, for symbol and inspiration, for rest and refreshment to the souls of weary men.

*J. T. Trowbridge.*

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, Feb. 10, 1885.

I am not at all certain that a legislative body in this country is insensible to an appeal to sentiment, although it is generally supposed to be. Probably it would often like an excuse for yielding to sentimental considerations; and in the case of the Adirondacks it has an excuse of the best sort.

Any legislator who has ever taken his vacation in the northern woods—if he was not on a lumber errand—would no doubt vote to keep that fascinating and agriculturally worthless domain for his and the people's pleasure. He would say that the pleasure and the health to be got out of it were advantages outweighing any practical one to which the destruction of these forests as a pleasure-ground could lead; but when the so-called practical people accuse him of being influenced by sentiment, he is very glad to be able to show them by figures and calculations that the destruction of the Adirondack woods would be a pecuniary calamity. In short, that it is not a mere matter of trout-fishing and deer-stalking and weak-lung nursing, but that these great forests are necessary to the physical prosperity of New York.

The Adirondack forest is the great sponge which gathers and holds moisture, regulates climate, and prevents sudden and violent changes; but it is very fortunate for all this part of the country that there is a vast region of swamps and mountains, practically useless for settlement (in comparison with other lands). And we are just apprehending the many parts it plays in the economy of nature.

As a frequenter of the Adirondacks, for a good many years, I feel very strongly the devastation that has been wrought there by the recklessness of men, and the necessity of protection by State authority. The lumbermen, by damming the outlets of the lakes and flooding standing timber, have made a considerable portion of the Saranac country ghastly. But hunters and fishers and pleasure-seekers need looking after as well as the lumbermen. Many of the destructive fires are set going by the carelessness of hunting and camping parties; and some of the most lovely lakes in the world (lakes that for beauty of shore and contour of the surrounding hills, that is for artistic qualities, have no equal in Switzerland or England) have been almost ruined in appearance by camping-parties, who have peeled the spruces for shanty covers, and slashed among the woods for fuel. This work of devastation will go on.

Private ownership will not protect the beauty or the sanitary use of these forests. The State must interfere; and it cannot do so too soon.

*Charles Dudley Warner.*

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, Feb. 16, 1885.

Living, as I have, for many years in the Adirondacks, I can testify that the dangers which the ruthless destruction of the forest threaten are not imaginary. Many a mountain-side has been laid bare by the axe and by fire since I first came; many a mile of arid sand, burnt stumps, and unsightly bowlders are all that is now left of some of the thriftiest forest lands in this region; many a little stream where my boat once glided easily is now but a shallow mud-hole, or has entirely disappeared; and this destruction has been almost entirely brought about by fire. Fire is the real danger which threatens, and the scars which the fire-fiend has left in his course will remain through more than one generation to emphasize the truth of this statement. Fire not only burns all the trees in its course but destroys also the very soil from which generations of forests would otherwise grow. A match carelessly or intentionally applied will do more damage than an army of lumbermen. The most utter indifference respecting this evil prevails among the people who live here,

and a fire, which, when it first began, could have been easily extinguished, will be allowed to burn weeks and destroy hundreds of acres of beautiful and valuable timber. The destruction thus wrought is irreparable. At the present rate it will not be many years before the glory of the Adirondacks will have departed and a "wilderness" indeed be left.

*E. S. Trudeau.*

SARANAC LAKE, NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1885.

I agree with you fully as to the value of our forests as regards the permanent supply of timber, the maintenance of the integrity of the Hudson, and as a sanitarium and pleasure-ground for our people from all parts of the country. And I have even a stronger feeling as regards the forests of the great North-west. Nothing can exceed the prodigality with which we have squandered our great resources in this respect. Our forests altogether have yielded to the Government less than they could be easily made to yield every year for centuries, under any proper system of forestry. It is absolutely necessary that a beginning be made at once of a better system of care and of provision for replanting some of the denuded districts.

*Andrew D. White.*

CORNELL UNIVERSITY,  
ITHACA, NEW YORK, Feb. 13, 1885.

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## HEROINES OF THE SEA.

### A REMINISCENCE OF FAMOUS YACHT-RACE.

A WIND wild and fitful, a wind which seemed to crouch low, to catch breath, and then dash away again, had been blowing across the city all night and day, bearing with it the exhilarating fragrance of the crested sea. I knew that out through our Golden Gate the great waves were coming with tireless toss, telling tales of tempest and trouble; and so, to watch the waters in their glee, I went out with a friend to the Cliff House.

What a spectacle of grandeur and fascination! We could have watched it for hours. We wished that every man, every woman, every child, in the great city at our backs could be there to enjoy it. We

felt the kisses of the spray as wave after wave was broken into white beauty against the rock whereon we stood. It roused all the ardor of one's nature. What a crowd of memories the great throbbing sea can summon! Memories of acts of heroism; of what its trackless highways have done for commerce, for civilization; of the nations it has married in peaceful rivalry and friendship; of the joys its ebbs and flows have made in human hearts; of the sorrows writ upon its maimed and wrinkled face; and of the kinship it has conquered between all peoples and all tongues. Great, glorious, ever-pulsing sea!