

Wonderful Trees.

BY S. F. A. CAULFEILD.



PARLIAMENT OAK, SHERWOOD FOREST.
From a Photo. by G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.

Paisley (1270-1305), who is called "the Knight of Ellerslie." This tree was blown down, at the age of 700 years, in 1859. There is an oak of special interest from an historical point of view known as the "Parliament Oak," for it was underneath its shelter that Edward I. heard of the revolt of the Welsh, A.D. 1282, during a hunting expedition in the forest of Sherwood; and summoned his Barons to consult with them as to the subjugation of that part of the kingdom. Thus it was that this tree, under which the august

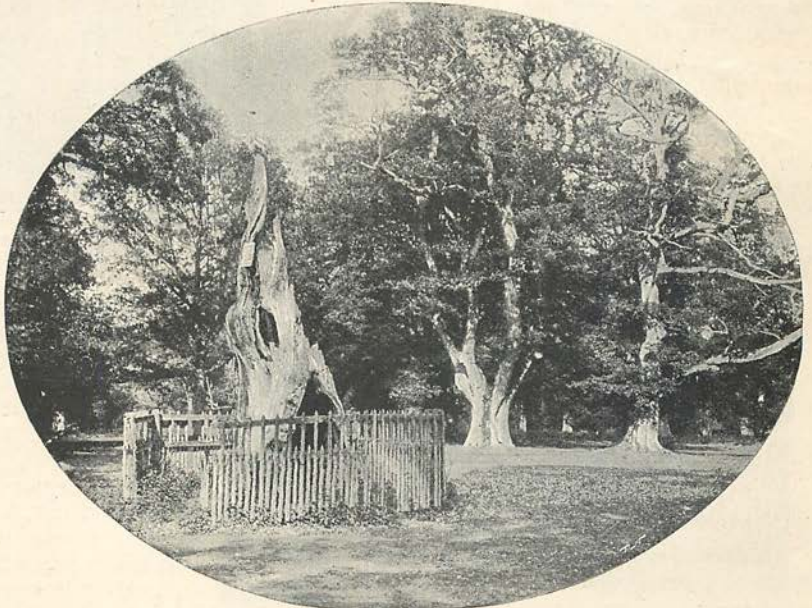
assembly met, obtained its name. It is still standing, and although hollow it bears leaves and acorns.

The "King's Oak," shown in the illustration at the bottom of this page, is one of the features of Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, in Wiltshire. The forest is sixteen miles in circumference, and formerly belonged to Queen Eleanor. The King's Oak, which is now but the *torso* of a once magnificent tree, is considerably over 1,000 years old. Such a statement may be made with absolute



Of the extreme age to which certain trees may attain the world in general is little aware. But tradition alone is not the evidence on which we build our assertions respecting them; for we have both written historical authority for the facts I am about to relate, and the self-existing evidence of yearly growth, which may be calculated, a ring to a year, very distinctly marked in large trees.

I do not know how many men, led by Wallace, in the village called by his name, in Renfrewshire, were successfully concealed from the English under cover of a grand old tree, still weathering the wind and the rain; but tradition vouches for the fact. Another tree distinguished by the same name was to be seen till the middle of this century at Ellerslie, the reputed birthplace of Sir William Wallace, near



From a Photo. by)

THE KING'S OAK, SAVERNAKE FOREST.

(Poulton & Son.



THE GREENDALE OAK.
From a Photo. by G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.

certainly, as no one, not even the most expert antiquarian or tree-ologist, has yet been able to name with correctitude the number of years that this grand tree has stood the buffeting of wind and storm.

Close to Welbeck Abbey there is the notable "Greendale Oak," said to be 1,500 years old. In the year 1724 the owner of the tree made a

bet to the effect that on his estate he had a tree which, when cut, would be large enough to drive a coach and four horses through. He won the wager by cutting an aperture 10ft. 6in. high, by 6ft. 6in. wide, which was large enough to allow the passage of a specially-made coach with the waged number of horses. The tree measures 34ft. above the arch, and the highest branch now remaining is 54ft. high. The venerable tree is now a wreck, supported by chains and props. A rival in size, if not in years, is that in Thoresby Park (Lord Manvers's place), *i.e.* the "Major Oak," measuring 90ft. in circumference at the base, and in the hollow provides standing room for fifteen persons.

"Damorey's Oak" in Dorsetshire, blown down in 1703, had attained no less than an age of 2,000 years; and "Cowthorp Oak" at Wetherby (the Saxon "Wedderbi"), which can hold seventy persons in its hollow trunk, numbers 400 years less. That in



NEWLAND OAK.
From a Photo. by Miss H. Pauline M. Loat, Newland.



From a Photo. by] ROBIN HOOD'S LARDER, [G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.

Windsor Great Park called "William the Conqueror's Oak" is aged, at the lowest computation, 1,200 years. Then, again, we have two more kings of the forest, antedating the Conquest, *i.e.*, the "Plestor Oak" and the "Bull Oak," Colbourne, Yorks, and their seniors, the "Winfarthing Oak" and that of Bentley, for which it is claimed that they were in existence 700 years before the Conquest! "Robin Hood's Larder" is the quaint and suggestive name of a



From a Photo. by] SIR PHILIP SIDNEY'S OAK. [The Photochrom Co.

grand old ruin, often called the "Shambles Oak," still held together by iron braces, in the park of the Duke of Portland, Sherwood Forest.

The "Newland Oak," shown in the accompanying illustration, with two ladies resting in comfort on its spacious trunk, is one of the largest and oldest in England. It is mentioned in the *Doomsday Book*, and according to Miss H. Pauline M. Loat, who sent us the photograph, "must have been a good age at the time of the Norman Conquest. It is 47½ ft. in girth."

I have just read in the *Globe* of the discovery of one of our native primeval oaks, with two immense branches, at Stockport during some recent excavations; and Professor Boyd Dawkins has pronounced it to have been 10,000 years old. Of course, it is of enormous weight, and its raising a matter of great difficulty from a bed which, it is estimated, it has occupied during a period of 15,000 years. It is, further-

more, said to be in colour, grain, and solidity better than any now to be procured.

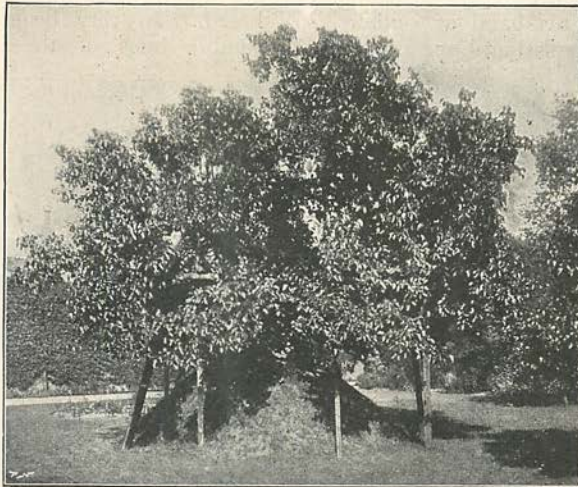
There are four trees in England shown on this and the following page, each of which is associated with the career of a noted literary man. Some of them, old and scraggy as they are, may yet outlive the reputations of the men whose names they carry. But that is a thing for time to decide. The first of these trees, called "Sir Philip Sidney's Oak," may be seen in the park at Penshurst Place, the lovely seat of Lord de Lisle and Dudley, which once belonged to the Sidney family in Kent. The park contains some beautiful trees, and it may not be irrelevant to add that one avenue of trees is known as "Sacharissa Walk," from Dorothy Sidney, the famous Sacharissa of Edmund Waller, the poet. "Sidney's Oak," a gnarled and

broken monarch, planted at his birth, stands in the centre of an open ground, surrounded by a fence to stay the advances of destroying hands.

The illustration below shows the noted mulberry tree which is said to have been planted by the poet Milton in 1632, in the gardens of Christ's College, Cambridge. Old as it is, it yet remains one of the most striking features in the grounds. Near by the poet was educated, but he had been eight years at his books before he decided to plant the tree, which is now shown to visitors with as much unction by the guides as his college rooms.

The poet Cowper resided for thirty-two years in Olney, a small village near

Bedford. The house in which the poet lived still exists, as well as an ancient oak which, since 1768, has been associated with his name. The trunk is hollow, and a goodly number of persons may stand inside, provided



MILTON'S MULBERRY TREE.
From a Photo. by G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.



From a Photo. by]

COWPER'S OAK.

[Poulton & Son.

a printed notice, which hangs on a prominent part of the exterior, does not debar the curious from approaching too near.

At Newstead Abbey, which has been associated for many years with the career of Lord Byron, a graceful oak holds dignified position in the fair surrounding gardens. It is not remarkable that this celebrated oak, the story of which is familiar to all our readers, should have retained its beauty so long, for the tree and the beautiful abbey stand in the heart of Sherwood Forest, surrounded, as Irving says, "by the haunts of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws, so famous in ancient ballad and nursery tale."

The limit to plant life is unknown; but the almost incredible longevity of trees has been established beyond all question. Lichens, I may observe, *en passant*, appear to exceed them in the age they attain—it would seem to be an unknown quantity. Some specimens now in existence are so ancient that no expert would venture to limit their age to thousands of years. To return to the subject of tree life—the cypress,

lime, and olive are as remarkable for their tenacity of life as (and perhaps greater than) the oak.

The "Yew of Brayburn," Kent, dates back for 3,000 years (according to De Candolle); and that at Hedsor, Bucks, is believed to be its senior. At Fortingale, Perthshire, there still exists a yew aged between 2,500 and 3,000 years; and another,

in the churchyard, Darley, Derbyshire, which numbers upwards of 2,050 years. To the lovers of natural history, Norbury Park, Surrey, would present a grove of ancient yews which was standing in the time of the Druids. There are splendid yew tree hedges of great height and thickness at Battle Abbey, Sussex.

At Ballydarton House, Fenagh, County Carlow, there is a fine avenue of yews, resembling the aisle of a Gothic church, underneath which I have often walked, in admiration, but the age of which I never heard. In very beautiful contrast to the sombre hues of these were the delicate



From a Photo. by]

LORD BYRON'S OAK,

[G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.



YEW TREE, CROWHURST CHURCHYARD.
From a Photo. by Smith & Co., Redhill.

pink and waxen-white foliage of the hollies growing at the edge of the grove.

The yew tree in Crowhurst Churchyard, shown in the accompanying illustration, with a door opening into its interior, is over 800 years old, and measures 27ft. in girth. It stands in the centre of tombs and gravestones, and little children play games round its massive base.

The yews of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, are said to be at least 1,200 years and odd. The founders of the Abbey held their councils under them, A.D. 1132.

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One fine old veteran at Ankerwyke House, Staines, was noted when King John signed the Magna Charta in 1215; and afterwards made doubly historical as the trysting-place of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn. In this County of Middlesex there is a yew which numbers upwards of 850 years, in Harlington Churchyard; and those at Kingsley Bottom, near Chichester, were standing (according to Dr. Cobham Brewer) when the Sea Kings landed on the coast of Sussex.

The Tisbury Yew, in Wiltshire, is 1,300 years old, its age having been computed as such by the late Mr. Moon, of Bath, a well-known authority on yews. One of the local traditions connected with this noted tree is that thirty people once took tea inside the trunk, the entrance to which may be seen in our illustration, with the figure of a gentleman in full view.

The most ancient willow in England stands in Haverholm Park, Lincolnshire. At one foot from the ground it measures 27ft. 4in. in circumference; at 7ft., 28ft. 6in.; and the spread of the limbs measures 80ft. on one side and 56ft. on the other; but it is scarcely 50ft. in height. It is of the Huntingdon species, and is quite sound in trunk and branches, and it is known to be upwards of 1,000 years old.

I state this on the authority of a trans-Atlantic writer in the *St. Louis Republic*.

So much then for trees of great age and



From a Photo. by]

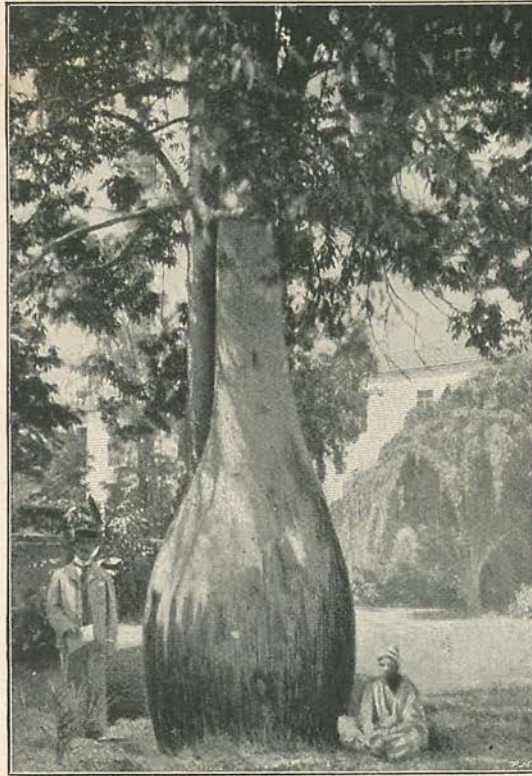
THE TISBURY YEW.

[George Pitcher, Tisbury.

historical importance. We now pass from the old and majestic to the new and curious. Scattered throughout the world there are thousands of trees which possess peculiar interests merely because through some freak of Dame Nature they have been moulded into novel shapes, or have been utilized for novel purposes.

A very curious tree is the "bottle tree," a specimen of which grows in the garden of the Medical School of Kasr-el-Din at Cairo. The swollen base of this tree is covered with numerous prickles, and it is the largest specimen of its kind in Egypt.

The photograph was taken by the kind permission of Dr. Keatinge, vice-principal of the school, and was sent by Mr. Walter



EGYPTIAN "BOTTLE TREE."
From a Photo. by Mr. Walter Draper, The Barrage, Egypt.

Draper, superintendent of Government Gardens, The Barrage, near Cairo. It may be of interest to mention that the building behind the tree in the illustration is the one in which the Mamelukes held their council of war the night before the Battle of the Pyramids.

Our next illustration, the photograph for which was sent us by Mr. Bert Ames, of Genoa, N.Y., is chiefly interesting because of the curious branch which drops from the middle of the larger branch joining the two trees together. That the junction is of no slight strength is shown by the

ease and safety with which a man may walk from one side to the other.

The "Arboreal Giraffe" is but our fanciful



TWO TREES GROWING TOGETHER.
From a Photo. by Mr. Bert Ames, Genoa, New York.



THE ARBOREAL GIRAFFE.

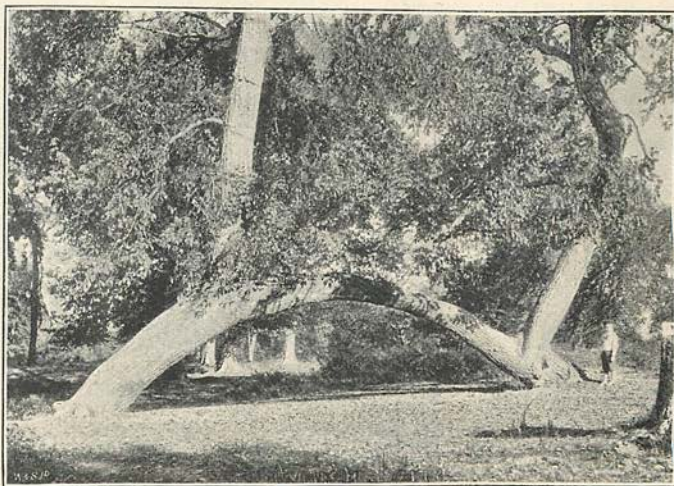
From a Photo. by Mr. Edward H. Crain, Albany, Ga.

way of naming the curious tree shown in our next reproduction. The date-palm is growing from the hollow of an Indian fig, or banyan tree. Notice how the roots of the fig, upon which the little girl is resting, clasp the date-palm for some distance along its curving trunk, and apparently support it. The tree stands in what is called "Maloney's Garden," in Key West, Florida, and the photograph was sent to us by Mr. Edward H. Crain, of Albany, Georgia.

We wonder how many of our readers will be able to tell which part of the "Which is it?" grew first. Most of them will probably agree that that honour belongs to the right-hand part, but those who have seen the original, which grows on the farm of Captain L. P. Williamson, two miles north of Independence, Missouri, say that it is a difficult matter to tell which is the original root. The tree is an elm, and the trunk at each end of the bow is about 20in. in diameter. The photograph was kindly sent to us by Mr. R. D. Wirt, Superintendent of the Independence Waterworks Company.

The tree growth shown

in our next illustration was discovered by Mr. Wayne A. Sullenbarger, of Belle Plaine, Iowa. "While squirrel-hunting when a young boy, September 30th, 1864," writes Mr. Sullenbarger, "I had treed a squirrel, and was stepping backward slowly and cautiously. While doing so I passed between the 'twins,' not noticing the fact, however, till the fork obstructed my view of the squirrel—in fact, I forgot all about it in my surprise and genuine delight." The tree belongs to the species known as rock elm, and the single body for a distance



"WHICH IS IT?"

From a Photo. by R. D. Wirt, Independence, Missouri.



CURIOUS TREE FORMATION AT BELLE PLAINE, IOWA.
From a Photo. by Keyser & Brinkley, Belle Plaine, Iowa.

of 12ft. from the point of juxtaposition is over 3ft. in diameter. The trees are now visited by many people as a curiosity, and some of them, as shown in our picture, even come in carts.

Near Pratt's Junction, a small railway-station in Sterling, Massachusetts, grows what might humorously be called the "Siamese Twin Tree," a picture of which is shown herewith. The two oaks, joined like the letter H, are each over 3ft. in diameter, the connecting limb being as large as the body of an average man. Mr. John Nelson, of the *Worcester Evening Gazette*, writes that the

space between the trees, and under the limb, is sufficient to allow the passage of the young cattle that pasture near by. "To judge," says Mr. Nelson, "from the rings found within the trunks of oaks in this vicinity—and these oaks are the largest of the species found in Central Massachusetts—they must be somewhere about 125 years old. There is no one who possesses any information as to how the trees came to be joined in this curious manner; to the natives of the neighbourhood the trees have always been as they are to-day."

Another curious freak of Nature is shown herewith. It may be seen growing in Crow Road, Partick, Glasgow. Mr. Andrew E. Binnie, to whom we are indebted for the photograph, says that the two trees were originally planted about 4ft. 6in. apart, and early began to grow towards each other. At the height of about 7ft. they joined, and now form one tree, bearing no evidence of having been trained in the slightest degree. The inhabitants of the cottage directly in front of the tree have tried to utilize it as a gateway by putting a post at the side.

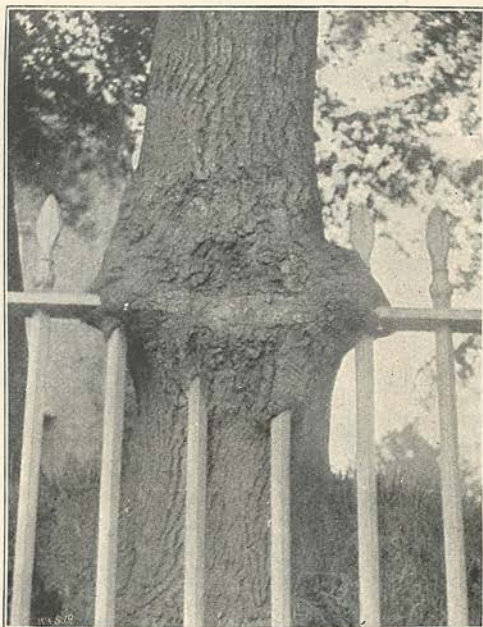
A noteworthy tree grows at the present time in a garden by the side of the Stratford Road, about a mile from Shirley. The iron palings, shown in the illustration, were originally planted some 2in. or 3in. from the tree, but the tree so widened in girth that it completely overlapped a part of the palings, which are now buried in the tree to a depth of about 6in. The greatest length of the buried part of the palings is about 1½ft., with the height about the same. "The tree," says Mr.



TWO TREES GROWING TOGETHER NEAR STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS.
From a Photo. by E. G. Davis, Leominster, Mass.



GATEWAY MADE BY TWO TREES GROWING TOGETHER.
From a Photo. by Mr. Andrew E. Binnie, Pollokshields, Glasgow.



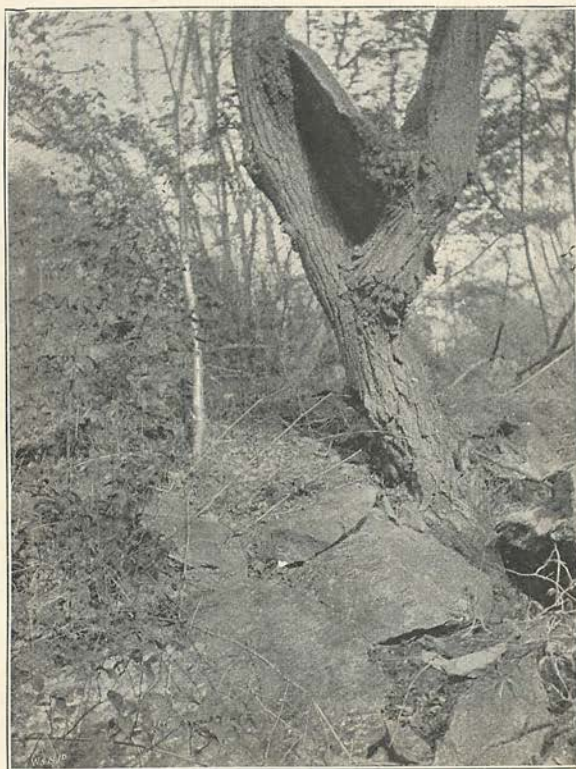
TREE GROWING THROUGH A FENCE.
From a Photo. by A. W. Sarsons, Moseley, Birmingham.

A. W. Sarsons, of Moseley, Birmingham, who sent us the photograph, "is quite healthy, and its growth is not interfered with by the palings. The tree overlapped them quite naturally, no artificial means having been used to introduce them."

Such freaks of Nature may be considered genuinely striking. They are certainly uncommon, but their chief merit is due to the fact that the hand of man has not touched them in order to make them what they are. Trees may be grafted and trained into most surprising shapes, but, except in very rare cases, such as the

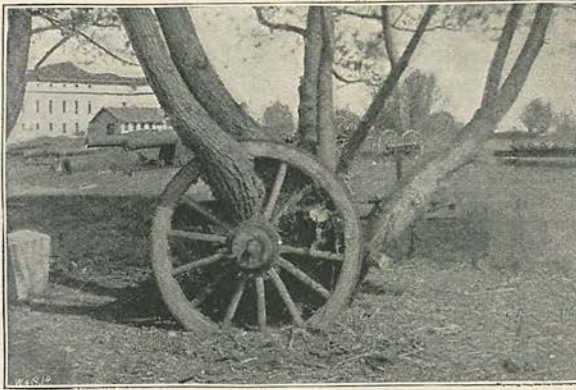
"clipped trees" shown in an article some months ago in this Magazine, they are not interesting, and possess nothing of the curious or out-of-the-way quality which makes the foregoing illustrations so attractive to the passing reader.

From Mr. Richard L. Barrington, of Washington, D.C., we have received an excellent photograph showing a large stone, which it would evidently take four men to lift, lodged in the fork of a tree. Mr. Barrington writes: "How did the stone reach its present position? It has evidently been there for



TREE GROWING ROUND A LODGED STONE.
From a Photo. by Mr. R. L. Barrington, Washington, D.C.

years and years, as the tree has conformed itself to the stone. Was the stone carried up by the tree in its growth? There are many similar rocks at the base of the tree. So far as I can ascertain, nobody knows how the stone reached its present position. I think it would

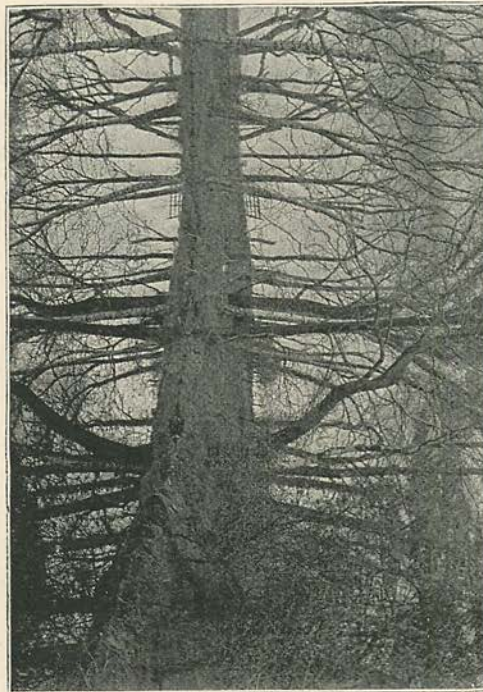


NATURE'S EMBLEM OF PEACE.
From a Photo. by Mr. L. R. Rainnie, Philadelphia.

take a derrick to lift it there." This curiosity is to be found in a rocky, inaccessible, unfrequented locality, one mile from the great falls of the Potomac, and fifteen miles from the Capitol at Washington.

A most remarkable growth is shown in the accompanying illustration—a picturesque and almost pathetic memory of stirring days and bloodshed. To one of our readers, L. R. Rainnie, of Philadelphia, we are indebted for the photograph, which was taken at Fort Delaware, in Delaware. The history of the tree is as follows: A number of caissons were placed there during the Civil War, and until a few months ago were left there untouched. As the ground was very damp in this spot, a sprig grew up between the wheels of the caissons, until it developed into a large tree, forcing its way ambitiously and breaking the spokes. The rest of the caissons fell to pieces when they were moved, but this one was allowed to remain. The branches and leaves were cut away in order to

show the effect, as we get it in the illustration. The tree is a well-known curiosity of the district, and attracts many visitors. We now print what we may call a photograph of the most curious tree in existence, standing straight and sturdy, with scores of branches jutting at right angles from its enormous trunk. We do not doubt that botanists would be greatly puzzled to name the species of this remarkable tree, but those of our readers who may note in the reproduction the two five-barred gates growing half-way up the trunk will soon be able to explain the wonderful puzzle. The trick will be better explained if the picture is viewed side-



THE MOST REMARKABLE TREE IN EXISTENCE.
From a Photo. by Mr. Thos. Rimmer, Southport.

ways. Mr. Thomas Rimmer, who sent us the photograph, says that this was taken near Shirdly Hill, Halsall, Southport. "I was out photographing one afternoon in the country," writes Mr. Rimmer, "and came across a pool of water near some trees. The reflection of the trees in the water seemed to form a pleasing picture. I had no idea at the time that the results would be so curious." Certainly the print bears out this statement, and after having played such a trick upon our readers we take leave of this wonderful tree with equanimity.