

**ELEMENTS OF SYLVICULTURE: A
SHORT TREATISE ON THE
SCIENTIFIC CULTIVATION OF THE
OAK AND OTHER HARDWOOD
TREES, PP. 1-282**

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ELEMENTS
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A SHORT TREATISE ON THE
SCIENTIFIC CULTIVATION OF THE OAK AND
OTHER HARDWOOD TREES.

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translated
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH (2nd EDITION).

BY

E. E. FERNANDEZ AND A. SMYTHIES, B.A.,

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1882.

TRANSLATORS' PREFACE.

It may be objected that this book, being written only with reference to the conditions of soil, climate and species peculiar to France, possesses no value for Foresters in other countries where these three elements may be different. That this objection is only partially true, is so evident that very few words are necessary to justify the present publication. The broad principles of forestry remain the same everywhere, they are, so to say, mathematical constants. Heat, oxygen, and moisture are always essential for germination; young plants will invariably die if deprived of the amount of sunlight they require; inferior associated species of more rapid growth must be kept down by means of cleanings, &c., &c. These instances may be indefinitely multiplied. Even the chapters specially devoted to the treatment of the French forest trees, to which the above objection, if it has any force at all, applies in its fullest extent, even those chapters are not without their interest and use. The oak, the beech, the silver fir, the Scotch fir, and their peculiar

habits, are hard unalterable facts, data supplied by Nature. What is the best treatment for each of those trees? This question has been fully resolved by close, skilful and practical observers. Is a study of their answers and the processes by which these answers have been arrived at quite unprofitable? In a word, this work written only for the benefit of French foresters, contains not only the fundamental principles of Sylviculture, which remain true at all times and in all places, but also sound applications of these principles in special cases, which cannot fail to possess both interest and utility for their professional brethren in other climes.

We do not, however, wish our meaning to be misconstrued, and for this reason it is well to speak out plainly. The method of natural reproduction by seed is the backbone of modern French forestry, as indeed will be gathered to some extent from a perusal of the present publication, and those who would see for themselves to what perfection the method may be brought under a favourable climate and with enlightened supervision, have only to pay a visit to the more important State forests in France.

The State forests in that country have now been worked on some sort of a regular system for nearly 200 years, and during the last fifty years of this period the special wants and habits of forest trees have been made the subject of patient and intelligent

study. Thus the results arrived at are the fruit of inquiry extending over a considerable period, and embrace a vast array of carefully ascertained facts.

The lessons derived from a study of these facts are embodied in the present volume. It is a melancholy satisfaction to us to record the pleasure we experienced at hearing these lessons explained by the author himself, whether in the lecture room or in the field. The teacher has passed away, but his work remains, and if we have succeeded in rendering this clear and intelligible, our object will have been attained.

A word now with respect to the technical terms employed. Some of these are already current, and have been adopted by general consent; these it would have been unwise to alter: others though also expressing ideas of every day necessity, are entirely new, either because no word existed previously to denote these ideas, or because those at present in use are not sufficiently accurate or expressive. It is not necessary to enumerate here the reasons which in our opinion justify the adoption of these new terms. We would ask our readers to think of the importance of the subject-matter, rather than to dwell upon the imperfections of the translation.

E. E. FERNANDEZ.

A. SMYTHIES.