

was growing less and less, and great injury was apprehended to the mining interest. "What shall we do for water?" was the general cry. The evil was immediate and tangible. Somebody had sense enough to ascribe it to the true cause, and the demolition of the neighboring forests was prohibited. In that prolific climate Nature soon repairs her wastes. The naked hills were soon clothed again with new vegetation, and the streams resumed their former volume.

In tropical climates, of course, the connection between the forests and the supply of water, and consequent fertility, is most apparent. When the Spice Islands fell into the hands of the Dutch, they were covered with a dense growth of spice-bearing trees. In order to increase the value of their monopoly, they commenced an almost indiscriminate destruction of these forests. In consequence, the islands were converted into barren deserts, and they have not yet resumed their former fertility. At Penang, the Chinese settlers have been in the habit of raising but a single crop from the virgin soil, which they had bared of its forests, and then abandoning the fields for fresh clearings. The soil thus left unprotected was washed from the steep hillsides, which became parched and barren, and the island was threatened with incurable sterility. The British Government has been obliged to interfere and prevent this short-sighted destruction of the forests.

The British Association has collected from India a vast amount of information bearing upon this point. Among the hills of Ceylon, where the forests have been cut down in order to form coffee plantations, the loss of the springs and fountains has already become an evil of great magnitude. Districts are pointed out which have been in a great measure abandoned, within the memory of man, from the same cause; and measures have been recommended, and partially carried into effect, to remedy this evil, by forming extensive plantations. But it is much easier to prevent an evil than to remedy it. An ounce of prevention is here worth quite a number of pounds of cure.

Could the old Greeks have looked forward into futurity, they would have seen double reason to use tree-cutting and devastation as convertible terms. In a large portion of Greece the forests that once clothed the hills have disappeared. As a consequence, some of the famous fountains of antiquity now flow only in song. Rivers of historical renown have shrunk to scanty brooks, which a child may ford. The Lernean Lake is now but a stagnant pool, so overgrown and hidden by reeds and rushes, that the traveler might pass it without being aware of its existence. Asia Minor and Persia, and the country from Burmah to Affghanistan, are full of warnings on this subject. Italy has suffered less, for her lofty mountains are yet the parents of perpetual streams; but she has not escaped. The famous Rubicon has dwindled to a little rivulet, so insignificant that it can not now be certainly identified; the Pope

and the antiquarians being at point.

Palestine, in the old times, was a rivulets and fountains, gushing from the hills, and was thereby distinguished from the dry channels of its rivulets still exist, but their number is sufficient in the most abundance of water. Such a dry channel is called a *Wady*, and they are the most distinctive feature of the geography of the country. We remember our student days, was fond of giving names on that country. So frequently using the Arabic name, that he was spoken of as "*Wady*" by the students who was called, by way of distinction, "*Wady*." In tropical climates water and these dry channels, which were once called by living streams, is sufficient proof of the ancient fertility of the Promised Land, which must needs have been great to support the dense population which Writ informs us once peopled its hills and valleys. But with the trees the gushing fountains have passed away, and ages must elapse before the best government can restore the country to its old state.

Our own country is yet too new, and its forests are yet, in spite of woodmen and axes, too numerous for the scarcity of water to become a serious evil. But like causes produce like effects; and unless we change our present course, our children will suffer from our wanton carelessness. We have no right for our own temporary advantage to desolate the country. The generation has more than a life-interest in the earth, of which it is but the trustee for posterity. Every man who has revisited his early home, the older States, after an absence of a few years, can not have failed to notice the diminution of the streams and springs. There is probably no water in the brook that turned his water-wheel. The springs in the pasture, which he remembers as ever-flowing, are dry; and if a season of unusual drought happens, the cattle must be driven long distances to water—a necessity which never was known in his early years. More especially will this be the case if a railroad or an iron establishment has occasioned a rapid demand for fuel. The trees have perished, and with them the water; and the meadows and fields are dry and parched. In their haste to be rich, the farmers have killed the goose that laid the golden eggs for them.

Among the most pleasant remembrances of our own New England home were some half-dozen beautiful ponds, with waters as clear as crystal, lying among the woods. One, in particular, known as Spring Pond, was a perfect gem. It lay in a deep hollow, with steep slopes