

while the cause of science, and the general good of the public, being every body's business, are treated with comparative apathy.

When I arrived in Virginia, April 29th, I found the woods every where enlivened by the dazzling white flowers, or bractææ, of the dog-wood (*Cornus florida*), the average height of which somewhat exceeds that of our white thorn; and when, as often happens, there is a back-ground of cedar or pine, the mass of flower is almost as conspicuous as if a shower of snow had fallen upon the boughs. As we sometimes see a pink variety of the wild thorn in England, so there occurs here, now and then, though rarely, a pink dog-wood. Having never remarked this splendid tree in any English shrubbery or park, I had some fine young plants sent home from a nursery to several English friends, and, among others, to Sir William Hooker, at Kew, who was not a little diverted at my zeal for the introduction of a tree which had been well-established for many years in the British arboretum. But now that I have since seen the dwarfed and shabby representatives of this species in our British shrubberies, I am ready to maintain that it is still unknown in our island. No Virginian, who was not a botanist, could ever recognize it in England as the same plant as the dog-wood of his native land. Yet it is capable of enduring frosts as severe and protracted as are ever experienced in the south of England, and the cause of its flowers not attaining their full size in our climate, is probably a want of sufficient intensity of light and heat.

A great variety of oaks were now in leaf in the Virginian forests, among which I observed the white oak, with its leaves in the shape of a violin, and the willow oak, with long and narrow leaves. The ground underneath these trees was adorned with the pink azalea and many other flowers, among the rest the white violet, a species of phlox, and an everlasting *Gnaphalium*.

The cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is often covered at this season with what is termed here the cedar apple (*Podisoma macropus*), supposed by many of the inhabitants to be the flower or fruit of the tree itself. It is a beautiful orange-colored fungus, ornamented with tassels, a very conspicuous object after a shower, but shrinking up if exposed to a day's sunshine.