

greens, deciduous forest-trees, and fruit-trees, such as flourish in all the arable and habitable portions of our country. Every one will now admit that trees flourish upon the prairies. In proof of the fact, the prairie farmers are actively engaged in their introduction. "The prairies \* \* \*," says Gerhard,\* "may be easily converted into wooded land by destroying with the plow the tough sward which has formed itself on them. There are large tracts of country where, a number of years ago, the farmers mowed their hay, that are now covered with a forest of young, rapidly-growing timber. \* \* \* A resident of Adams County testifies to the effect that locust-trees planted, or, rather, sown on prairie land near Quincy, attained in four years a height of twenty-five feet, and their trunks a diameter of from four to five inches. \* \* \* In like manner, the uplands of St. Louis County, Missouri, which were in 1823 principally prairie lands, are now covered with a growth of fine and thrifty timber, so that it would be difficult to find an acre of prairie in the county." This testimony is confirmed by numbers of persons from various parts of the state whom I have questioned on the subject. The introduction of timber as a branch of rural industry is now systematically pursued. The principal drawback to the cultivation of forests and fruit-trees is the violence of the prairie winds and the occasional severity of the wintry weather.

If what I have suggested in reference to the persistent vitality of buried vegetable germs be true, we have a ready, simple, and beautiful solution of this long-vexed problem.

There are pretty satisfactory evidences that the soil of the prairies is of lacustrine origin. It has the fineness, color,

\* Illinois as it Is, p. 277. Compare also Wells's *Amer. Jour. Sci. and Arts*, i., 331; Engelmann, *Ibid.* [2], xxxvi., 389; Edwards's *Rept. Dept. of Agric.*, 1862, p. 495.