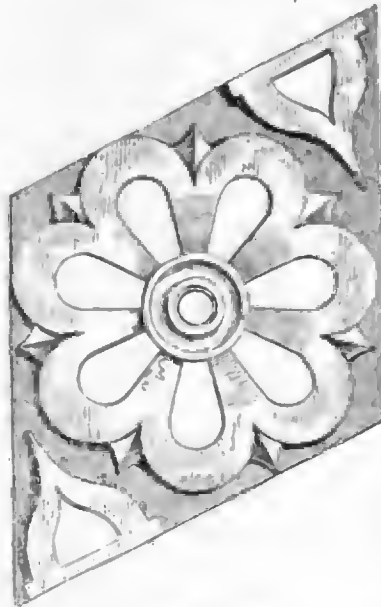


DETAILS OF THE PARAPETS.



Elevation of the pedestal.

Section of the open parapet.

Elevation of part of the open parapet.

TIMBER—ITS TREATMENT AND USES.

BY JAMES WYLDON.

(Continued from p. 569.)

139. **HORNBEAM.**—This tree is indigenous to England, abounding throughout Essex, Kent, and Norfolk, and is also common in the north midland counties, Lancashire and Wales; further southward it becomes scarce, and can hardly be deemed indigenous to Scotland. It is best known as an underwood or hedge-plant; but in favourable situations and a congenial soil, it is known to attain a girth of 6 or 8, and height of 40 or 50 feet. In exposed situations it will thrive where some other forest trees would dwindle away, or be of stunted growth: poor clayey soils, lying on sand or chalky gravel, are the most conducive to its growth. It is considered useful for forming screens or boundaries in gardens. In appearance it much resembles the beech, but with the head still closer and more rounded; it is of a scrubbed and tortuous growth, unless it has some pruning bestowed upon it when young; when of mature growth, it presents a trunk apparently composed of several stems twisted and grown together. Its leaves are pointed and doubly serrated, resembling those of the elm, and wanting that beautiful gloss which appears on beech leaves; before being fully expanded, they are folded delicately together, with a regular, plaited appearance; they continue attached to the boughs, and affording shelter when vegetation has long ceased. The tree is propagated by the keys or seeds which are small nuts, sown in autumn; of these, plenty are produced every year by old trees.

140. The wood is remarkably hard, tough, and durable, though but slightly flexible. It is used in making mill-clogs, and other parts of machinery, the heads of beetles, stocks, yokes, tool-handles, &c.; and is also invaluable to the plough-maker and the cartwright. It is excellent for fuel, burning long with a clear, bright flame, and affording much heat; it also makes good charcoal, and furnishes good potash.

141. Having now concluded our review of those trees which, in an early stage of this essay, we selected as most imperatively demanding our attention, and led perhaps, in some instances, by the attractive nature of our subject to be more diffuse than some readers might deem altogether warrantable, we should, however, not do justice to this division of it did we dismiss it without first making note of some of those illustrious examples which are scattered abroad, in our own island and elsewhere, testifying at once the capabilities of their several species,

and forming, with the venerable remains of mediæval art, links whereby we may connect past ages with the present. The circumstances in these patriarchs of the vegetable world which we esteem, and to which we propose to call attention as remarkable, are longevity, girth, stature, spread, and historical associations.

142. **Herne's Oak, Windsor.**—

"There is an old tale goes, that Herne the Hunter, Sometime a keeper here in Windsor Forest, Doth all the winter time, at still midnight, Walk round about an oak, with great ragged horns. And there he blasts the tree,

—There want not many that do fear In deep of night to walk by this Herne's oak."

It stands close to an avenue of elms, in following the foot-path which leads from the Windsor road to Queen Adelaide's Lodge, in the Little Park; notwithstanding a story prevalent about its having been destroyed fifty years ago by George III., this is believed to be the tree: it is now dead. A little farther to the left is a fine old pollard, measuring 27 feet round the middle of the trunk.

143. **Damory's Oak** stood not far from Blandford, Dorsetshire, and was probably five or six centuries ago in its maturity. During the civil wars, and till after the Restoration, the cavity of its decayed trunk, which was capable of holding twenty men, was inhabited by an old man, who sold ale in it; at the ground its circumference was 68 feet, and 17 feet above, its diameter was 4 yards. In the violent storm of 1703 it suffered greatly, many of its noblest limbs being torn from it. In 1755 it was cut down and sold for firewood.

144. **The Coucher Oak, near Wetherby, in Yorkshire,** is one of the most gigantic and venerable trees of its species. The late Dr. Hunter says of this celebrated tree, "the dimensions are almost incredible. Within 3 feet of the ground it measures 16 yards, and close to the ground 26 yards. Its height in its present ruinous state (1776) is almost 85 feet, and its principal limb extends 16 yards from the base." It was the same in 1835.

145. **The Fairlop Oak,** a noble tree, stood in a glade in the Forest of Hainault, in Essex, about a mile from Barkingside; it was cut down not very many years since, and is traced by tradition half-way up to the Christian era. About a yard from the ground, where its stem measured 36 feet in circumference, it divided into eleven vast arms, more in the manner of the beech than of the oak. Its shade over-spread an area of 300 feet in circuit; and here an annual fair was long held on the 2nd of

July, no booth of which was suffered to be erected beyond the extent of its boughs. The pulpit, and some other parts of the furniture of St. Pancras' Church, Easton-square, are veneered with the rich and beautifully mottled wood of this ancient tree.

146. **Elizabeth's Oak,** which grew at Heveningham, in Suffolk, and is mentioned by Gilpin, was of great dimensions, but in the time of that writer was greatly decayed. In Queen Elizabeth's time it was hollow, to which circumstance it was indebted for the honour of acquiring the name it bore: the queen used often in her youth to take her stand in it to shoot the deer as they passed.

147. **The Queen's Oak,** at Huntingfield, in the same county, about two bow-shots from the Hall, is that under which Elizabeth used to take her station to shoot the deer, tradition stating that from it she shot a buck with her own hand. It thickens upwards, and measures at 7 feet from the ground, 33 feet in girth: it is bold and picturesque, although considerably shortened by age and accidents.

148. **The Duke's Walking-stick** is another oak at Huntingfield, rising to the height of 111 feet, and girding 20 feet at the ground.

149. **The Skelton Oak** stands about a mile and a half from Shrewsbury, at the point where the Poole road diverges from that leading to Oswestry: near it the famous battle between Henry IV. and Hotspur was fought, 21st of June, 1403, and from it the celebrated Welsh hero Owen Glendower made his observations prior to the engagement. Its hollow trunk will contain about a dozen people; it is 37 feet in circumference at a foot and a half from the ground; and parts into two enormous limbs.

150. **The Shire Oak,** near Worksop, so honourably distinguished in name, and shown in all the larger maps of England, from its standing on a spot where the counties of York, Derby, and Nottingham join, was one of the largest in the kingdom, and equalled by few in point of grandeur. It spreads its shade over a portion of each of these counties, extending 90 feet from the extremities of opposite boughs, being computed to cover an area of 707 square yards, and to be capable of covering a squadron of 235 horse.

DUNDEE PUBLIC BATHS.

THE following gratifying letter, announcing a handsome subscription by her Majesty and Prince Albert, has been received by the secretary:—

"Rossie Priory, Incheure, Nov. 8, 1844.

"Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that I have received a letter from Mr. Anson, stating that her Majesty and Prince Albert, having heard of the proposed erection of public baths for the working classes in Dundee, have signified their intention through him of contributing 100*l.* to the building fund. Mr. Anson moreover states that her Majesty and his Royal Highness have only hitherto contributed to the public bath funds of the metropolis, but make an exception in favour of Dundee, in consequence of their having so lately landed there. I am sure that this spontaneous donation on the part of her Majesty and his Royal Highness, shewing as it does that the orderly conduct of the people on that occasion was fully appreciated, will call forth the gratitude of those for whose benefit it has been contributed.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"Mr. John Irvine. "KINNAIRD.

High-street, Dundee."

PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF DUNDEE HARBOUR.—The extreme point of the pier here was partially demolished on Saturday last by the sea, in consequence of the severe easterly gale which continued during the greater part of last week. The harbour has sustained a considerable amount of damage by the gale. The fair way is half shut up by a large mass of broken fragments of stone and rubbish, which it will require considerable expense and labour to remove. The reconstruction of the pier will be an herculean task—too great, we fear, for the funds of the burgh; although other ways and means may not be wanting in such an exigency to accomplish so necessary an undertaking.—*Fife-shire Journal.*