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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1894.

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AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

By the invitation of the citizens of Brooklyn the American Forestry Association held its meetings there at about the same time as the other scientific bodies that have been assembled.

Mr. Fernow claimed that the earth is a potential forest, which if left to itself would occupy the globe. He described the development of arborescent flora through the past geologic ages.

Man's part in the battle was described by word and picture. Twelve views from the French Alps showed how, by ax and fire, over a million acres had been laid bare and eight millions ruined by the detritus thus produced.

The unskillful methods of the lumberman were next criticised. By culling the best species, regardless of the aftergrowth, the future value of the forest is reduced. Intelligent forestry, while using the timber crop, substitutes artificial for natural protection, thus assuring the survival of the most useful.

Meetings of the Forestry Association were held for reading and discussing papers on Wednesday, August 22, in the Packer Institute, at which Hon. George W. Minier presided.

Dr. H. C. Hovey gave an account of the vast petrified forests of Arizona, describing their origin, mode of petrification, and present condition.

The visitor to this enchanted region sees a million tons of gems in sight. agates, carnelians, jaspers, onyxes, and amethysts. Many carloads of these precious stones have been removed to be polished or otherwise disposed of.

the cellular structure of the wood. A plea was made for the governmental protection of this wonderful region, which is now so rapidly being destroyed.

Prof. G. C. Smock read a paper on "The Forests of New Jersey." The urgent need of State regulations to promote tree culture is acknowledged by the farmers.

Mr. Verplanck Colvin, superintendent of the Adirondack Survey, read a paper giving an account of the region indicated, advocating the State Park, advising the entire non-use of the Alpine regions, on whose preservation the water supply depends, and recommending forestry experiments to restore the over-lumbered districts.

Gen. G. C. Andrews, of Minnesota, showed that forest fires cost the United States \$25,000,000 annually. He cited European countries which manage to prevent such fires.

As the outcome of the foregoing discussions the following resolution was unanimously adopted: That we approve of the enactment of laws, not only for the care and protection of the timber and other resources in the forest reservations, and on all public timber lands, but also for their rational use.

The Association, by invitation of the New Hampshire Forestry Commission, held a midsummer meeting after its Brooklyn session and spent several days in exploring the White Mountains.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

It is the custom for the retiring president of the A. A. S. to give an elaborate address of considerable length, either on some topic or general interest to scientific people or on some special subject belonging to his own department of research.

After reviewing the history of astronomy from the days of Pythagoras, Ptolemy and Aristarchus, through the era of Copernicus, Newton, Kepler and Halley, down to our own times, the speaker summed up concisely the methods and results involved in the solar parallax.

This large group of astronomical, geodetic, geological and physical quantities must all be considered in finding the solar parallax. And it should be remarked that these are so entangled with each other that no

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