By the common law of England, where the owner of a forest, in which others had a right of common for their cattle, felled the timber trees, he was allowed to inclose it so as to exclude such commonable cattle for three years thereafter, to prevent them from browzing and eating down the young spring before it had grown up beyond their reach; which term of inclosure was, by a statute passed in the year 1482, extended to seven years, for the more effectual preservation of the young growth, 22 *Ed.* 4, *c.* 7; *Sir Francis Barrington's Case,* 8 *Co.* 271; 6 *Jac. Law Dic.* 450, *v. Wood;* which new growth, it has been held in England, will attain a sufficient size to be cut as timber fit for many uses at twenty years of age. 35 *Hen.* 8, *c.* 17; 13 *Eliz. c.* 12; *F. N. B.* 59; 2 *Inst.* 642; *Bac. Abr. Tit. Tythes, C.* 4; *Richard Lifford's Case,* 11 *Co.* 47; 2 *Mich. Am. Sylva.* 144. But the plantations which have been made in modern times, in England, so * far as they have gone, afford perhaps the only, or certainly the least questionable evidence as to the growth and age of forest trees. In such cases it has been observed, that oaks and beech are not fit for use, as timber, until they attain about fifty or sixty years of age; but that the Scotch fir *(pinus sylvestris,)* larch, *(larix,)* ash, and chestnut, become fit for use after a growth of twenty or thirty years. The larch, in particular, than which there is no tree in England of quicker growth, is said, on an average in favorable situations, to increase until fifty years of age, at the rate of half an inch in diameter and two feet and a half in height each year. Instances are mentioned where in Scotland, young oaks, valuable for their bark alone, are usually cut at from twelve to twenty-five years old. *Rees' Cyclo. v. Plantation.*

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I do not understand, however, that any of these historical accounts of the plantations of forest trees have, as yet, covered as much as the lapse of an hundred years. They make no mention of the expectation of life that may be attributed to any such trees; nor do they speak of the average term of the existence of any of them. It has been said that in England the oak attains an age, in some instances, of more than a thousand years; but that the beech, the ash, and the sycamore *(acer pseudo platanus,)* most likely never live half so long. But all plants, as well as all animals, are alike subject to the inexorable law of mortality, as is sufficiently shewn by the bountiful provision made by nature for their reproduction. Hence, and from the well known fact, that all plants are subject to diseases, it necessarily follows, that all trees, like animals, have an average and ultimate term of existence beyond which their lives are rarely extended, or cannot be prolonged. *Rees' Cyclo. v. Timber; Thompson's Chem. b.* 4, *c.* 2, *s.* 13, *and c.* 3, *s.* 6; *Roget's Animal and Vegetable Physiology, part* 4. (*a*)

(*a*) LOUDON, in his *Arboretum Britanicum,* states that the oldest oak in England is supposed to be the Parliament Oak, so called from the tradition