

branches, would cure this evil. If that pest could be overcome, millions of these valuable trees might be reared at a trifling expense of land and labor. Indeed, the land would be better for their presence. Growing as they do here, they are very beautiful.

But of all the cultivated trees I have seen in this State, the soft maple is the most luxuriant and the most beautiful. They are planted by thousands in both town and country.

Osage orange hedges abound, and are in the highest degree successful. Judge Bailey, of the Supreme Court, who is himself a farmer, told me yesterday that they can be made at an expense of less than fifty cents a perch. In about four years they are sufficiently grown to be a protection against animals. In the meantime, a fence of some other kind is required. Animals do not, or, rather, cannot eat the orange. Its strong, sharp thorns protect it.

I have never seen in Kansas a tree that had been uprooted by the wind. I mentioned this to one of the oldest citizens, and he said that, although he had never thought of it before, he was unable to call to mind a single instance in which he had seen a tree that had been blown "out of root." The reason of this is quite obvious. The soil is so deep that trees of all kinds strike their roots so far down that it is impossible for any amount of force that the tree could bear to heave up the huge mass of soil which they embrace. But neither have I in a single instance seen a tree which had been *broken* by the wind. This may be accounted for from the fact that the trees of this country having to withstand a strong breeze almost every day, grow more sturdy than they do with us; and hence even a gale or a hurricane cannot break them. Young fruit-trees require to be securely staked till they are well rooted. After that they appear to stand up as well, and are as symmetrical, as I ever saw trees anywhere. Peach-trees form their heads more beautifully in Kansas than in any part of the eastern States that I have visited, and this year the crop is very abundant. Most of the early settlers were negligent in this matter, so that at this time the market is not one quarter supplied, and men could do well to go largely into the business yet.

Mr. Burns, who probably knows more about the matter than any other now in Kansas, assured me confidently that in no part of the United States except Southern California did the vine grow so well and bear its fruit so abundantly and surely as in Kansas. And he gave a reason for it. The abundant rains of April, May, and part of June give them a fine start; then the warm, dry, and pure atmosphere of the subsequent months secures the ripening of the grapes both richly and soundly. When the rich flats of the valley of the Kansas