A COUNTRY ROAD

To show how closely flower and plant preservation is allied to the conservation of our national forests, we may mention the inroads made on spruce forests in this country. The use for Christmas trees of spruce and fir in increasing numbers is making for a wholesale destruction in the North. A remedy which has been suggested is fir nurseries producing trees especially for the Christmas trade. American holly has become a rarity in its wild state on account of its popularity during the holidays. The winterberry, a relative of the holly, which holds its red fruit late into the winter, is widely destroyed for decorative purposes, and danger also threatens the climbing bittersweet. The fruit of this, as of all plants, is essential for the reproduction of the species, and the breaking off of branches bearing the seed has seriously reduced the possibilities of propagation.

A COUNTRY ROAD

It was a winding thread of white
That moved amidst the green
Like some vague joy or dim delight
Or dream of peace serene.

There was a beckoning thro’ the trees
Of distant shimmering blue
That lured with subtile witcheries
And pleasing prospects new.

The spacious fields beside the way
Were fragrant with the balm
That comes from grass where lambkins play
Thro’ quiet hours of calm.

For scarce a wain with rumble bold
Passed creaking o’er its sod;
But over it in silence rolled
The chariots of God!

Edward Wilbur Mason.