

Forestry Song, Movement 6

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 _The Tertiary epoch disappeared beneath
 the scrutinous ax_
 Harshberger, 1904.

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.
In intercession the formal white cones
 burst to shape the moonlit aspects

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In vegan waves the gray bark bite.

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 Longs the valley for leaf-thick sheddings
 to bright a larken soil;
 were it cleared first for orchard or train?

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In ache to add by shade of a gnarl,
 in limbs, lights out the wind owes.
Just beyond the margin-dark birch whose lesser
branchling trace is a pome or two to sing by

 --are single notes to melody
 a slope of ancestry.

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In ridgeback its thousand visages terrible
 all-at-once monkey-face onslaught
 ax-light focus to whittle crabapple speech

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In single shoots, bare cloth, summer canopy,
 the crowd closes on leaf so hard to overlap,
 base now bare no coverage to protect an outward extension

.
 --of the living cambium.

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On moist, well-drained sites these humus-thick, whose bough sweat
softens seed, fluid plain rivers would enrich

.
 the greater redheart woods-

 --air so heavy, fulsome, & wine-dark in them.

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James A. Gardner