

which, without one particle of alcohol, keeps well, making a refreshing, wholesome beverage. In drinking it no danger of imitating Noah.

In flavour the Champion grape may be inferior; yet in the three essential particulars of being very early, wholly free from mildew, and immensely productive, it has no compeer; for every year it bears twice the quantity of all the other vines put together.

True, one thing in its favour must be mentioned. It happened to be planted on the edge of an under-ground pool, caused by water from the kitchen sink. But even here its benefit is apparent, for it certainly absorbs the noxious qualities of the pool, thus promoting health. Who wishes a full supply of ripe, sweet grapes on his table two weeks earlier than the Concord comes in, let him plant the Champion. Surely this is the grape for the million.

FRANCIS COLEMAN.

Hamilton City, Ont.

REPORT ON PLANT RECEIVED FROM F. G. A.

The grape vine (Prentiss G.) you sent me last spring has done well. Before I got it I had planted the Pocklington, Lady and Lady Washington, still it seemed to take root sooner and send out vines faster than any of them. By the fall it had produced more permanent wood than any of the others. Another feature about the plant I noticed compared to the others was that it stood the autumn frosts better than the others. My soil is very warm and dry, there being only about eight inches of earth on solid limestone rock, with here and there fissures running through it. In the very dry season I have to water all my plants, and while I noticed some of my other grape vines with their leaves softened the Prentiss remained fresh and green all through

the season. I may be able to report further after another season's trial.

Yours respectfully,

A. C. SLOAN, M. B.

Annan, Dec. 29th, 1884.

BLACK KNOT.

Scientists have demonstrated that the Black Knot, affecting the plum and cherry, is a fungoid epidemic, and I think this theory is correct. Trees of the Damson type are more subject to it, and all the hybrids are more or less affected, particularly the Lombard, Purple Gage, and Early Orleans; others not having so much of the Syrian element in their composition, are not quite so bad, such as Pond's Seedling, Bradshaw, Glass' Seedling, and Imperial Gage. The only varieties that are exempt on my grounds are the Prince's Yellow Gage and Yellow Magnumbonum, evidently having a hardier element in their composition, probably from some of the wild varieties indigenous to Europe. I think the liability of trees to be affected with the Black Knot is exactly in accordance with an unsound condition; the trees which I cut down were all rotten inside, having only a small rind of sound wood next to the bark, illustrating that an unsound condition is more subject to the attack of epidemics than a sound one.

Plum growing has hitherto been a profitable business, but since the advent of the Black Knot, orchardists will have to substitute something else.

A field is now open for hybridists, and I have no doubt but that a hardier race can be produced, admixed with some of the European and American varieties of plums. The hybrids now produced between the European and American grapes are a success, why not the plum.

Berlin.

R.