

about large enough for to plant six plum trees. Is it suitable for them, and what kind would you recommend. The land is a high dry clay.

HENRY DEACON.

Belgrave, Feb., 15th., 1886.

REPLY.—Plum trees will grow in almost any well drained soil, thriving best in a strong clay. Whether they will grow in the piece of land adjoining your barnyard will depend upon whether it is continually soaked with drainage from the yard, certainly the scratching of the fowls will not prevent the trees from growing. The Yellow Egg, Lombard and Bradshaw are well known and reliable varieties.

FLAT STONES FOR MULCHING

Please give your opinion of the use of small flat stones placed over the roots of newly planted trees, instead of litter etc. as a mulching process. I have had good success in the use of stones.

And oblige,

Toronto.

J. S.

[Will those of our readers who have tried mulching with flat stones please to send us the results of their experience for publication. Never having tried them, we have no opinion to express.—
ED. CAN. HORT.]

HUBBARTON PIPPIN.

MR. EDITOR.—Do you know an apple the Hubbarton Pippin, a large red striped apple, deep smooth cavity at the blossom end, nearly as large as the King, and twice or thrice as productive: hardy, and a very strong grower. I think of working this apple largely if I can get scions on to my Snow apple trees. It is generally shipped as the Hubbardston Nonsuch, but is quite dis-

tinct, far better grower and hardier, bringing a better price. I had very good success this year shipping to London. Russets cleared \$2.42 all round. R. Pippins \$3.26 per barrel.

J. P. WILLIAMS.

Bloomfield P. E. Co.

REPLY.—We think, from your description, that you refer to the Blenheim Orange, Blenheim Pippin, Blooming Orange. See Downing's first appendix page three. Without seeing the fruit it is impossible to speak positively.

What is the best thing to put with a hard clay soil for flowers?

Toronto.

ARTHUR HEWITT.

REPLY.—The very best thing is rotted turf taken from an old pasture field of sandy soil. The turf should be stacked over summer and allowed to come well rotted. Manure from the cow-stable, composted with straw, or cornstalks, so as to incorporate with it considerable vegetable fibre, will be found very valuable for clay soils.

Thorough drainage is essential to success, without this there is nothing that will make soil friable.

IS THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST DETERIORATING?

"Some years ago I thought there was no paper of its size so valuable as the *Canadian Horticulturist*. Then the Editor and a few men of experience furnished the articles. Now all this seems to be changed."

R. L.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—We are gratified always to receive the kindly criticism of our readers, and publish the above extract from our friend's letter in the hope that others will be thereby en-