

OPEN LETTERS.

for two days wilting in the sun. A friend calling to see me, I showed him the state they were in, he suggested that I might give them a trial, which I did. I cut off the old wood along with the roots up to the first young branch leaving the leaves on, I planted them in a slanting position up to near the tips, I choose a spot for shelter the north side of a grapevine; they soon began to show they had taken kindly to their new surroundings. I tried at intervals, by cutting the bark to see if my patients were progressing and can now say they are in perfect health. So this negatives Mr. Spillet's theory.

Although the Industry and Lancashire Lad can be grown from cuttings, it is too slow a progress for them, it is slow even with layering. Mr. Jocelin, a well-known fruit-grower, writes, that he has never come across the man in America who can start the Industry, and says they have all to be started in England. If he takes in the method of layering and the less successful one by cuttings then the statement don't hold good in Canada. I may in the near future give a few points on starting G. B. cuttings. In the meantime I wish to make a few remarks on the article by C. L. Stevens, which I consider is misleading to the uninformed. His remarks on "Strawberry Culture" is the same as we read all the time, only he has not got out of the rut of growing the old Wilson and Crescent when others much better every way, are for sale. He states that it seldom pays to grow the second crop. Now although they are not so large as the first crop, still taking weight for weight the second outweighs the first; then there is the labor of planting the second to be taken into account. He asserts that 80 per cent. of the plants after the first crop is over will be found dead. I think it will be hard to find fruit growers to endorse the statement. The same plant will grow year after year by simply setting it an inch below the crown.

The principal reason why so many in towns and villages give up growing this delicious fruit is that they are confined to a small plot of ground and cannot change their patch to new ground, no matter how much stable manure is used, as that won't contain all the mineral which has been extracted from the soil for a few years. One has only to consider the fine flavor and richness of this fruit to be convinced that it must have a heavy drain on the elements of the soil, if virgin soil was applied every two or three years along with wood ashes it would remedy the soil.

The writer in his remarks on raspberry says the Golden Queen requires protection in winter. It is quite hardy here in North Wellington. I hold a different opinion as to its fine quality, but "taste differs." I dug mine all out this fall for its being so badly affected with the grub which attacks it at the crown of the plant. Very few of my other varieties are affected by it. I may state here for the benefit of those who grow it that I tried an experiment with sulphur, lime and salt boiled, lime 30, sul. 20, salt 15, together taking a pint to a pailful of water, and

sprinkling on the crowns about twice a week, it was effectual to at least 90 per cent. Mr. Stevens says the Dewberry is of high quality. This is new to me, for what I have tasted of them, I would prefer a turnip, but here again "taste differs."

On the subject of currants he prefers the Victoria to all others, because the others have a sprawling habit. Fay's Prolific is the only one among the red out of the many I know that has that habit. The White grape in the white class has also this habit. It is a heavy bearer and of good size, but of poor quality. I dug up all my Fays last fall, as I could fill their places with much better varieties that did not require so much space. It scarcely ever sends up a shoot, consequently there is only old wood to rely on, but a worse objection to it is that the fruit made into preserves is very insipid. As for his remarks on gooseberries, the growers of this palatable fruit will be behind the times by adopting his choice, which is the old Houghton, now very little grown on account of its small size and poor quality. If I had no better to grow I would give it up.

Now, Mr. Editor, my article is lengthy for you to find space in your valuable Journal, but my object is to put the inexperienced on their guard.

It gave me much pleasure to read of the highly interesting meeting lately held at Kingston by the Fruit Growers' Association. Long may you go on in your way of well doing, so as the country will reap the benefit of your good work.

F. W. PORTER, Mt. Forest.

MR. S. SPILLET'S REPLY.

Sir,—Upon the testimony of the teaching of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for some time, upon the testimony of a large correspondence upon this subject with many of the leading gooseberry growers of Canada and the United States, and upon testimony of my own experience for fifteen years, I emphatically repeat my statement in "Daily News," that practically the gooseberry can't be propagated from cuttings. I would not say that if the soil were kept very damp, and the part of the cutting above ground were shielded entirely from the drying effects of sun and wind, that the cuttings would not catch. But layering is so certain and simple that it would not be worth the trouble. A gentleman of Mount Forest reported to me that he could not