

young thrifty ones of a vigorous growth. These will be much more likely to live, and will grow more freely and rapidly; and so will produce fruit sooner than old crabbed stunted ones, which people are very ready to pitch upon in the vain hopes of having fruit soon.

Where trees are to be set out as an orchard, in a large field subjected to ordinary farm cultivation, they ought to be from ten to twelve yards apart. But round the edges of a garden, or in any other situation where ground is some consequence, and where there is only a single row, so that they can get air on both sides, half that distance may suffice.

The holes should not be less than five or six feet wide, and fifteen or eighteen inches deep. In digging the holes, the top soil should be put to one side by itself, to be again returned to the hole, and the bottom soil thrown out to the other side, to be afterwards scattered over the surface. The holes should then be filled with good rich mould. The very best material for this purpose is sod from a ploughed field, and all the better if it has been ploughed the former summer, and the sod rotten, and best of all, if it is broken up for the first time, and the sod chiefly the original black mould. When the hole has been about two thirds filled with this, set in the tree, (having previously cut off, with a sharp knife, the mangled parts of any roots that may have been broken), spread the roots in a natural direction all around, turn in the loose mould, shaking it among the roots, and raising up such as may require to lay higher than others, and when the hole is full, tread the earth round the tree till it is moderately firm, and then turn in a pail of water to wash the earth completely in among the roots, and leave no vacancy. A stake should be driven in, and the tree tied to it with a straw rope, to prevent its being shaken and bent over with the wind, till its roots have taken a fast hold of the ground. It is the best way to drive the stake before the tree is set in, so as to avoid the risk of injuring the roots with it. A young vigorous tree planted in this way, in the latter part of April, will not only be sure to live, but will make 15 or 18 inches of new wood the very first season,—will continue to grow vigorously,—will blossom the second or third year,—and will commence bearing fruit the following year; whereas a scrubby old tree with its large fangs of roots, (inevitably mangled and broken in lifting), crushed into a little hole in the hard till grubbed out with the corner of a hoe, will, if it live at all, continue in a half-dead and half-alive state, without making any sensible progress or bearing any fruit for years, and then, perhaps, die after all. The only danger to be apprehended in digging large holes is, that in a stiff, retentive clay, and especially if the ground is level, water may lodge in them at wet times, and might injure the roots. To obviate this difficulty, the ground between the holes ought to be tilled as deeply as possible, either with the plough or spade, so as to let the superabundant water escape in the direction of the descent of the ground. This will have the additional advantage, that as the roots will, in a year or two, spread over the whole breadth of the hole, they will then get leave to spread freely in all directions, instead of being arrested in their progress by an impenetrable wall of hard till.

Some may think all this entirely too much trouble; but it should be borne in mind, that a few good trees, well managed, will pay better, and give more satisfaction, than a large number of indifferent ones, badly treated at first, and entirely neglected afterwards. Ample justice may be done to a few, when it cannot possibly be done to a great number.

Instead of getting a great many varieties of only one or two kinds of fruit it is much better to get more kinds of fruit, though fewer

varieties of each. For instance, instead of having an almost endless variety of apples, and no other kind of fruit, I would confine my attention to a few of the best approved and well tried varieties, and then have also a like variety of pears, plums, and cherries. There is indeed an almost endless variety of all these kinds of fruit, but especially of apples, and there is no wonder that people who want a few trees, get perfectly bewildered when they look into a nursery catalogue, or hear a nurseryman recommending all his different varieties. For the assistance of such people, I may mention a few varieties of each kind of fruit that are acknowledged to be good:

**APPLES.**—The Early Jonating, and the Harvest Apple may serve for early use; the Siberian Crab and the Cherry Crab, for preserves; and then, for fall and winter use, the Rambo, the Robson Pippin, the Spitzburgh, the Twenty-ounce Pippin, the Newtown Pippin, the Famen-o or Snow Apple, the Ithole Island Greening, and the Bourasseau would be a sufficient variety. There are all good apples. But the Rambo is my particular favorite amongst them all. In the list I have given, there are more highly flavoured apples, such as the Robson Pippin—these are handsome and larger ones, but, joining all good qualities together, it will be difficult to find one in the longest Nursery Catalogue to outstrip the Rambo. The tree itself grows of a handsome shape, which is always something worth minding, especially round a garden or near a house; and it is a large and constant bearer. The fruit, which is of a medium size, flat shaped, green, lighter on one side, and inclining to a brownish red on the other, and slightly speckled with red, is delicious and richly flavoured. With ordinary care it will keep sound and good through winter till the following summer. It is equally good for cooking as for the dessert; and what is a good recommendation of it to economical housekeepers is, that it requires no sugar when cooked. My own choice would be Rambos for the principal part of the selection, and two or three of each of the others according as there might be room. I dare say some may disagree with me as to these being the best varieties, for every man has his own taste in these matters, and it is right he should enjoy it, but it will be acknowledged by all who are acquainted with fruit, that the varieties I have mentioned are, at all events, good ones; and it is the beginner at orcharding gets as many of these as he can find time to dig large holes for, and then watches their vigorous growth during summer, he will have got so far into the spirit of the thing as to get acquainted with other varieties, and by another spring he will be able to judge for himself, if he chooses to add to my list.

Beside the good varieties that are to be got at Nurseries, there are occasionally first-rate apples to be met with through the country, that are either seedlings and never had a name, or the names have been forgotten if they ever had any. These may often suit a person's taste better than any of the varieties he can get at a nursery; and it has been young stocks fit for grafting, or trees in his orchard good for nothing but to be stocks, let him get some scions, and next month (if I am spared) I shall tell him how to put them on. The scions should be cut before the sap is freely in circulation, say in the end of March, or the beginning of April. They should consist of shoots of last year's growth, with an inch of old wood cut off with them. This will make them keep better, and take more readily when they are grafted. It is necessary to cut them so soon in order that their growth may be retarded until there is a vigorous and abundant flow of sap in the stock, when it will at once enter the veins of the scions, which will then grow forthwith, and the two will be more speedily united. The scions of different kinds should either be numbered with notches on the butt end, to correspond with the numbers in a catalogue; or else each kind may be wrapped in paper, and the name or some distinguishing mark written on the outside. Many different receipts have been given for preserving scions until the time for grafting; but I have never had them keep better than when just wrapped in paper, and laid upon the damp floor of a cellar. They should be seen to occasionally, and if they are getting too dry, they must be put in a damper place. If they

are too damp, so as to cause any appearance of swelling in the buds, they must be put in a drier place.

ANDREW HAMILTON.

Fairy Knowe, March, 1844.

(To be continued next month.)

#### AGRICULTURAL READERS.

In the early part of our experience as publishers of an agricultural paper, we found that the readers of such journals could be divided into two classes, one of which read with profit, the other with very little if any. Of course we do not include in either of these classes, those farmers who already know every thing, despise all agricultural reading, and treat the idea of any improvement in husbandry with the most profound contempt. The number belonging to this class is much reduced, but specimens are occasionally met with.

Farmer A. belongs to the class of readers that receive and peruse agricultural papers with little profit. The reason is, he does not sufficiently exercise his own judgment in reference to the details of farming. He reads a statement that such a farmer was eminently successful in the cultivation of such a crop; the growing or fattening of such or such an animal, or the management in general of a farm on the principles of rotation, and he determines at once to do the same. He does not stop to inquire whether his soil is suited to the particular crop he wishes to grow, whether it is too wet or too dry, too light or too heavy, rich or poor, but pursuing the course pointed out by the successful farmer, he miserably fails in his crop, or his animals, and frequently throws on the publication, or its correspondent, the blame which fairly belongs to himself.

Farmer B. on the contrary, is one of a class of readers that find a decided profit in the perusal of agricultural papers. He takes the same papers as A, but wholly escapes the mistakes into which A is constantly falling. The reason is to be found in the fact that he exercises his judgment in managing his farm; and is fully aware that a course of husbandry that would be successful on one kind of soil, or one particular location, would be ruinous on another. Because a great crop, or fine animals, have been produced under certain circumstances, he does not go on to infer that they will be so in all, and it is in this discrimination and adaptation, that the cause of his success is found. He reads, compares, reflects, and decides whether a course is suitable for him, his soil, or circumstances, before he adopts it. His agricultural reading furnishes him the means of doing this correctly, and in that he finds a great advantage.

Agricultural publications are not intended to supersede the use of the judgment in matters of practice, among those who receive them, their great office is to enable the farmer to judge correctly as to the proper course for him to pursue; to bring to his notice all improvements in husbandry and agricultural implements, that he may choose wisely for himself; to show what has been done by others, and the way it has been done, that if in the same circumstances, and it is desirable, he may do so too, and to excite to improvement by showing it is practicable and profitable. The farmer must do as do men in other cases, obtain all the light and information possible by reading, and then reflect, reason, decide, and practice for himself.—*Albany Cultivator.*

The range of earthly good is narrow and soon trodden; after a short time there is no variety, and the enjoyment is without hope.