

Orchard and Garden—No. 1.

HINTS FOR MARCH BY H. ORTI.

Every fine day some work can be found to do in the orchard or garden. Examine your trees carefully for cocoons and nests of insects. Timely use of the knife and heel now will do a great deal of good to cut and crush out those crawling, devouring individuals when everything is in full leaf. On full grown trees remove all suckers and dead branches—so much towards a start in pruning. Take a careful view of the tree from different points, and wherever a limb or branch interferes with one another, remove one, leaving that which is in the best position to carry on a uniform growth. A tree should be well balanced (to use the expression) in every quarter, so as to allow the sun and air to have free access to fruit and foliage. By proper management and careful attention, from the time the tree is planted, with the knife, it will be rarely necessary to use the saw. Nothing looks worse, or is so injurious to the well-being of the tree, as the cutting of limbs 4 to 6 inches and more in diameter. Sometimes, of course, it is actually necessary to do so, and we have attempted to describe in Fig. 1 the right and wrong methods—

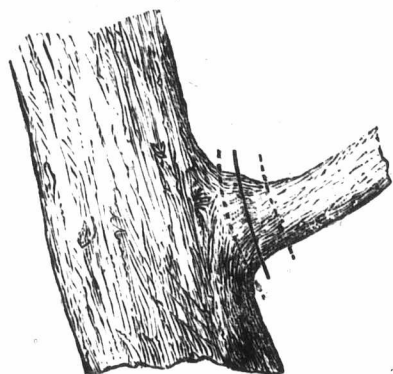


Fig. 1

the dotted lines being the wrong places to cut and the dark line the proper place. Very little observation will determine the pruner how to do so. In fact, nature seems to have made the mark, there being a natural swelling from the main trunk around the branch. By cutting right at the edge, the cut will readily heal over. It is a good plan to cover the cut with grafting wax, as this prevents the sap from running out, and has a general good effect. To make a useful wax—pliable in most weather—take three parts resin, one part tallow or oil, and 1 part bees' wax; when melted, add a gill of alcohol, and when cool the article is ready for use. Be careful who you employ to do any grafting; learn to do it yourself, if you don't know how. It is a very simple operation, and a little practice and experience soon make perfect. In April No. of this paper we hope to illustrate and describe the various methods practiced. A great many travelling tree grafters merely bring scions they cut from your neighbor's orchard to graft on yours, thus simply increasing the poor varieties you may have, or giving you worse. In pruning young trees or dwarfs, cut back about one-third of the preceding year's growth, making the cut from the inside, leaving a bud on the outside, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

This will have the effect as illustrated in Fig. 3. And careless pruning will result in something like Fig. 4.

Aim to produce a pyramidal form; and growth, stout, short and well ripened. Old trees should have the loose bark scraped off them at least once in every three years (nothing is better than an old hoe), which prevents insects from breeding, &c. It also creates a healthy growth, and gives the tree a clean appearance. Mark all blanks in the orchard to fill up with young trees. Give your orchard

a good top-dressing of ashes, lime, manure, &c. In the garden, cut and thin out old and young wood, and shorten well back currants and gooseberries; this will give a renewal of young fruit-bearing wood, and will increase size and quality of fruit. Cut out dead wood from raspberries, and shorten young canes to about four feet high. Give the whole garden a liberal coat of any manure, so as to be well dug or forked in the ground and around all small limbs, rhubarb and asparagus beds. The



Fig. 2

latter will be greatly improved by a liberal coat of salt. Determine what you wish to plant by consulting the wants of your family, your distance

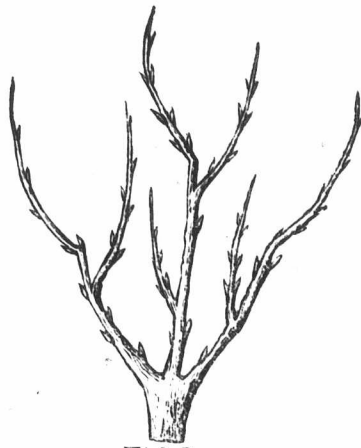


Fig. 3

from market, the aspect of your ground, the nurseryman's catalogue, and send your order in early, so as to give him time to procure anything



Fig. 4

he may be short of, so as to send all together. Do not delay, but plant this year. A season lost can not be regained.

Tobacco Raising in Canada.

Few of our farmers, we believe, have any idea of the extent of tobacco culture in Canada. The habitants of Quebec not only raise all the tobacco for their own consumption, but raise also large quantities for sale. The quantity grown is estimated at not less than two millions of pounds, and the extent of its growth would, there is no doubt, be greatly increased were it not for the obstacles in

the way of its sale. What they raise over the quantity required for home consumption is sold clandestinely to the dealers in it, who mix it with tobacco that has been imported from other countries and on which duty has been paid. By this means the profits of the dealers are increased considerably.

The Canadian tobacco may not be as good as that grown in more southern climes, but when mixed the difference is not observed by the consumers. Dealers are liable to a penalty for purchasing or selling the home-grown weed, but the profits made, if they escape detection, are such a temptation that they run the risk. The Legislature might, we think, devise a means whereby the prohibitory and vexatious course now pursued might be avoided, without loss to the revenue, and much of the money now paid to foreign growers might be retained in the country.

Fancy Shorthorns.

The *Live Stock Journal* (Buffalo, Jan.) gives a table showing all the sales of pure bred stock, which exhibits the sturdy progress of this "most perfect race of cattle." The sales of this year show a great increase. In 1874 there were sold 2,592 animals, at an average of \$337, while, in 1875 the sales numbered 4,307, at an average of \$422 per head, the sales the past year aggregating nearly twice as much as those of 1874, being \$1,832,383 to \$1,003,159. "This increase," the journal well remarks, "in the average prices, is noteworthy, when we consider the greater number sold and the greater dullness in general business." There may have been unwise speculation, there may even have been gambling in some of these transactions, as is said by some, but this does not in the least affect the real merits of the question. The fact is, beyond doubt, that the interest evinced in improved live stock instead of decreasing constantly increases; that the shorthorn of an established pedigree encroaches on all sides on the ground held by other breeds. What stronger proof is needed than the recorded fact that, though the number of sales in 1874 was considered large, and the prices high, the sales of the following year aggregate nearly twice as much. "The shorthorn fever," we have been told, "is at its height, and will doubtless run its course like other fevers." We can see no symptoms as yet of "the fever having run its course."

Granted that there are cattle outside the families known as "fancy shorthorns," which are as valuable for all practicable purposes of the dairy as for the butcher, there must, notwithstanding, be some ground for the continued demand, with prices steadily advancing. It is something distinct from their immediate worth for butcher or dairy keeper. It is that they are pure bred, and hence are able to transmit to their progeny their points of excellence that have added to the wealth of stock breeders and feeders more than can be estimated. By breeding from ancestors of a pure strain, unmixed for some generations, the distinguishing properties so much prized are fixed, whereas in crossbreds the progeny is liable to revert to the status of the ancestors of inferior breed.

We hold that the perpetuating of pure horn stock of good pedigree is most advantageous to the farmer. The value of his live stock is greatly increased by breeding from good cows of common breed and pure bred sires. The estimate that has been given on good authority that the blood of a pure bred bull increases the value of common cattle for grazing purposes \$10 at two years old, and \$15 at three years, is certainly not high, and at this moderate estimate the great profit to farmers of having the use of such an animal for their stock will amount to a considerable sum in a few years.

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