

of the soil had as much to do with the failure of the apple trees as the severity of our winters. My garden, as well as most of the farming land of Muskoka, is good rich soil, surrounded by hills of rock and rolling stones. From most of these hills springs of water are constantly running to the lower lands, and until these springs are cut off and turned into a proper course by drains, the land is kept too wet and cold in places for healthy vegetation. Since draining I have planted *Alexander* and *Tetofsky* apples, which passed through the first winter all living. I planted a second set of pears, plums and cherries, all of which, notwithstanding my draining, are going through the annual process of freezing down and growing up.

The *Glass Plum*, received from the Fruit Growers' Association, has grown a good size, but so far has borne only two plums. A graft from it on a native wild plum is growing stronger than its parents. Of five Spanish walnut trees planted three died, and two are grown beyond risk, one as high as second story window. Canadian walnuts and butternuts were partially frozen, but I think will do when roots get stronger. My English walnuts are growing, but I protected them the first winter. I have a hedge of English filberts and Kentish cob nuts grown from nuts bought in Toronto. The Berberry, Buckthorn and Scotch Sloe are quite hardy. Roses do better here than in Toronto. Grapes will be a success with winter protection. They did not ripen this year, as we had more cloudy than fine days. *Rogers* showed fine bunches and strong wood. The last apples planted are the *Snow*, *Mann*, *St. Lawrence*, *Russet* and *Colvert*, but they have not yet passed a winter.

Yours truly,

F. W. COATE.

Muskoka.

NEW VARIETIES OF GRAPES IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, SEASON 1883.

Just as the interest in grape culture has been given an impetus through the introduction of many valuable varieties for high latitudes, we have been overtaken by two successive cold, wet, and discouraging seasons, which tend to give us a higher appreciation of the earlier and hardy varieties. On many sections the crop was almost an entire failure. The immunity from frost along the Champlain Valley, Richelieu River, Island and vicinity of Montreal, and some localities on the Ottawa matured most varieties, the best, however, lacking the flavor of favorable seasons and the properties necessary for successful wine making.

BLACK VARIETIES.

Early Victor has surprised us by its merits, its foliage is remarkable for vigor and resistance of fall frosts, its bearing capacity equally surprising; under proper treatment it may be fairly classed as an extra early variety of better quality than any of the early Labruscas. The Worden, though not very new, is yearly winning its way in popular favor and should entirely displace the Concord in this Province, as it is certain to ripen, of larger size and superior quality, and nearly as vigorous.

More's Early, though early and showy, is so far a shy bearer. Aminia Roger No. 39, has improved in size and productiveness, is a large, rather dark purple, bearing very compact clusters, and is probably the earliest of its hybrids of its color.

Linden, from its large leathery leaf, gave promise of good properties, but was disappointing in fruit, colored the first, but was not eatable for weeks after.

Belvidere has fruited for three years, a profuse bearer, early, large in