

Peaches and Plums on alternate trees.—The curculio has a preference for the Plum. By perseverance in the jarring process, tolerable and profitable crops were obtained regularly.

J. M. Jordan, of St. Louis, spoke favorably of the Grape crop there, especially Concord. Strawberries and Cherries nearly failures.

An interesting discussion on the merits of under-draining, in connection with profitable fruit-growing, took place between A. W. Harrison, J. J. Thomas, and others, in favor of extensive under-draining, and Charles Harmer against its use in any but swampy places.

The main point of Mr. Harmer was, that where crops were as "nearly perfection as they could be," under-draining, though perhaps making things a little better, would not be enough so to make it a profitable investment.

The main point of the opposition was, that the "little better" of Mr. Harmer was really much better, and "that under-draining paid" in any case.

No one could, of course, think of stopping at Pittsburgh without visiting the world-renowned Knox Fruit farm.—Every one went there.

We should suppose those who saw this celebrated place this season for the first time must have been considerably disappointed. The impression was so prevalent that Mr. Knox was especially favored by nature with a soil, a climate, a sulphurous and smoky atmosphere, and other things fancied to be the *sine qua non* of fruit growing, that very little credit has been given him by his contemporaries for "virtue" in his system of management.—The present season has shown his situation to be as vulnerable as any other.

The Knox farm, of 1866, was no more like the Knox farm, as we saw it in 1865, than a monkey is like a man. Indeed, it would be easier for a "progressive development" savan to show the relations of the monkey to the man, than it would be for us to trace the connection between the appearance of things this season here and the same things last, if we had not been there, and had not we seen for ourselves.

We were both sorry and glad to find things in this condition,—sorry for the sake of the Pittsburgh Commissioner of Internal Revenue; and, for the matter of that, for Knox's own sake, for he is a pretty good sort of a fellow, while his example has been of incalculable value to fruit-growing all over the Union,—and yet glad because it shows that fruit-growing is just as likely to be successful any where as it is at Pittsburgh,—all locations being evidently liable to occasional mishaps, and none being especially favored as a Paradise for the purpose.

Another thing interested us at Knox's. Last year the Jucunda Strawberry came in comparison with several other varieties.

The merits of each had to be carefully weighed, and the balance deliberately thrown in favor of Jucunda. This year "comparisons were odious;" at least they should be to the Jucunda, had it any power in the matter, for the others were not even in pomological language, "good," while, bad as all other things were, Jucunda was still a very pretty sight to see. Had it not been for Jucunda this year, we fancy the Knox Strawberry treasury would have been bankrupt.

So with Grapes. The Concord was doing beautifully,

"O'er all the ills of life victorious."

While if there be any good meaning to the classical *Stat Magni Nominis umbra*, it was well illustrated by the miserable looking Delawares, Ionas, Adirondacs, &c., each of which truly "stood a shadow of a great name."

It is much in the favor of the Jucunda Strawberry and Concord Grape, that they should do so well here, when others so nearly failed.

Mr. Knox seems to be largely in the current line,—acres of these were looking remarkably well, and will pay him handsomely for losses in the failure of other crops; although the extra prices for short supply will perhaps make up somewhat. The best pick of Jucundas brought \$1 per quart during our stay in Pittsburg, against 75, as we saw them last year.

MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC POULTRY.

GOLDEN RULES.

Never over feed. Never allow any food to lie about. Never feed from trough, pan, basin, or any vessel. Feed only while the birds will run after the feed, and not at all if they seem careless about it. Give adult fowls their liberty at day-break. Never purchase eggs for hatching purposes until a hen is ready to sit. For seven or eight days before hatching, sprinkle the eggs with cold water while the hen is off. This will prevent the frequent complaint that the chicken was dead in the shell.

Communications.

THE CROPS IN CAPE BRETON.

From Cape Breton we have the most satisfactory account of the weather and crops that has been received for years.—It appears that this year, whilst much hay has been lost in those counties of Nova Scotia that are usually most highly favored by genial weather, the farmers of Cape Breton, on the other hand, who usually lay their account for unpropitious cold and wet, have saved their hay in excellent order:—

Sydney, 15th August, 1866.

Dear Sir.—No report has hitherto reached you from this quarter of the growing crops. The early season indicated by the weather of April was not realized,—wet and cold weather set in in the first week of May, and continued with little intermission until about the middle of June, very much retarding farming operations in wet situations. I believe grain and potatoes both suffered to some little extent. We have since had remarkably fine weather, and I have never seen crops of all kinds looking better than at present.

The hay is nearly all housed and will prove an average crop, in some favorable localities very heavy, in others somewhat light, but on the whole in excess I think of last year.

Grains of all kinds very luxuriant.—Wheat is little sown and has shewn some slight attacks from the insect. Oats, except where the seed perished in early spring, never in my recollection more luxuriant; and the same may be said of Barley.

Potatoes, so far, promise to be the best we have had probably since the tuber has been subject to disease. The Canadian* potatoes sent hither by the Board have been distributed very generally, and, as last year, do not suffer by comparison with any other variety. I found the Coppermines not so sure as the Rusty-coats, and in the cellar nearly half rotted. From four eyes of the Jackson Whites I have this season dug 62 fair sized tubers; so that this excellent potatoe is deserving of more general cultivation than it has yet received here.

Turnips have, it is said, suffered more than usually from the fly, but by late and heavy sowing some very large crops are promising. All the Brassicæ are looking well.

Carrots and parsnips suffered very much from early wet, and subsequently attacks of insects.

Gooseberries are scarce. Currants and wild fruits of all kinds unusually abundant.

Apples are a very heavy crop. Plums better than for two or three years back.

Next month, if you can find room, I hope to furnish a more detailed report than I am at present able to do.

Yours, &c,

H. DAVENPORT.

SOUTH-WEST MARGAREE—REPORT OF THE CROPS.

Hay an average crop, and farmers well through with it, but last week has been unfavourable on account of heavy rains.

Oats, wheat and barley appears to be a heavy crop. The weevil appears to make

*The Goodrich potatoes were from Utica, New York State.—Ed.