



Transplanting Evergreens.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR, Some little time ago I bought a small farm, and in my new-born zeal for sylvan beauty, planted the front with trees, a maple and a spruce alternately. I did them, as I supposed, every justice, and during the summer watched their progress with increased interest, and you may judge my mortification as the evergreens, one after another, began to assume a jaundiced look, and before harvest all became brown and dead. The maples, however, are, I believe, all alive. I need hardly add that I did them every justice that my inexperience could do them, and aided by the very wet summer we had in this quarter, I felt greatly disappointed with the result of my care and labour. If there is anything on this subject in the former numbers of your periodical will you be good enough to refer me to it; otherwise, I hope you or some of your correspondents will furnish a minute description of the mode, and period of the year, most suitable for successfully planting these cheap and handsome ornaments of a rural home M. W.

ANS.—Our correspondent will find some hints on this subject by referring to pages 28 and 270 of Vol. III. of THE CANADA FARMER. He does not tell us what plan he himself pursued, and we cannot, therefore, point out the cause of his failure. That there is no very great difficulty in transplanting evergreens is shown by the numerous examples of successful practice in this department of arboriculture exhibited in the public grounds and private homesteads throughout the country. Some years ago, a number of evergreens were planted along with other trees, under the superintendence of Professor Buckland, in the University Park, Toronto. In order to make allowance for an average failure of a certain proportion of the number planted, more were set than were required; but the instances of failure proved so few, that they stand now almost too thickly grouped together. In this case the ground was carefully prepared for the trees by trenching. We may revert to the subject more fully another time. Meanwhile we would throw out a few hints by way of reminder. Evergreens transplanted from swamps are very apt to die in their new location. They are more likely to grow when procured from an upland situation or a reliable nursery. In taking up trees for transplanting, it is seldom that a sufficient number of the small roots are preserved. The roots are generally so mutilated, that it is a wonder the trees survive such barbarous handling. Preserve as much of the root as possible, carefully taking up the surrounding earth, and removing with no more shaking than is absolutely unavoidable. Let the ground be previously well prepared by trenching, or draining, or both. In planting, make the hole sufficiently wide to admit of the roots being spread out after their natural manner, and not squeezed together, as if you were planting a post. Preparing a bed for the roots of the tree would better express the requisite treatment than the phrase *digging a hole*, which exactly describes the method too commonly practised. The tree should be set in the ground at the same level as it originally occupied. The fresh soil, immediately under and about the roots, should be as finely powdered as possible; should be slightly moist, but not too wet, which is apt to make it too cold also; and should come everywhere into close contact with the rootlets, but should not be rammed and packed down, after the manner of post-setting. The young roots, the most essential part, upon the preservation of which the whole success of the process depends, are extremely delicate, and cannot be too carefully treated. With regard to the best time for transplanting, a correspondent in the article referred to, on page 270 of Vol. III., thinks any time between May and August is suitable. For ourselves, we decidedly prefer the earlier planting. In addition to the foregoing suggestions, we would recommend mulching, especially in a hot, dry season, as the covering thus provided keeps the soil about the newly-planted roots much moister than it would otherwise be.

Canvassing for an Agricultural Paper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have to-day completed my list of one hundred and twenty-nine subscribers for the CANADA FARMER. Late as it is, I hope to add many more yet; and another year, I trust that the list from here will be more than doubled. To my mind it is a matter for regret that the FARMER does not find a welcome in the home of every agriculturist in Canada West, and until its circulation is trebled, neither the proprietor nor the farming community can have just cause for congratulation.

Have you, Mr. Editor, ever canvassed for subscribers for an agricultural paper? If not, you have something yet to learn. My experience in this line extends over a period of eleven years, and I am happy to say that the old antipathy to "book farming" is slowly but surely dying out. I still meet with a few who tell me they "know all about farming,—I don't want none o' your books or papers to show I how to farm." This is the class that really need the most instruction, if they were only willing to learn. If you pass their premises about 7 A.M., it is quite probable you will see "the boys" forking hay or pea straw into fence corners for the sheep, and wheat straw on the other side of the fence for the cattle. They don't believe in "penning up critters in a stinking stable" or in "making the sheep eat out of a bothering rack." If you return after breakfast, one of the boys may be seen using a spade and the other an axe. If you cannot guess what they are doing, go a little nearer and you will see that the spade is hacking the soft turnips and the axe splitting the frozen ones. The cattle, in the meantime, are driving each other round to get warm, before they begin their task of thawing out the chunks. Their father "don't believe in them machines for grinding roots." If you pass their homes in the spring months, no graceful shrub or ornamental tree meets your eye. You fail to detect by the sense of smell, the delicious perfume of the apple, pear, peach, or cherry blossom. A few currant bushes, planted by the "ole 'oman," and some unpretending flowers, tended by the young ones, greet the eye, and there their luxuries end. They know too much to take up room with fruit trees and vegetable gardens, and couldn't spare time to tend them if they had them; besides, berries grow in the fence corners without labour. Another class, and quite a large one, excuse themselves by saying they take the *Leader*, or the *Globe*, and there is more reading in either than they can get through. Their having half a dozen children, who care nothing about politics, makes no difference to their selfish hearts. Several have told me that they "get it all in the *Globe*." This is an error. Though both the *Globe* and CANADA FARMER are printed in the same office, they are as distinct as any two papers can be. I will mention only one other class we have to contend with, and in my mind the least excusable, because the most intelligent: one refuses to continue it because there are too many selections from foreign publications and not enough original matter; another reverses the last sentence, and complains that there are not selections enough; both evidently forgetting that the paper is not "got up" specially for their use, that it is intended for thousands of readers who differ in opinions, as well as themselves. Some object to agricultural papers in general, because experimental farmers, who publish their experience, differ in their opinions and disagree in the results of their experiments. This childish argument needs no comment.

There is another side to the picture, sir—a "sunny side," and it is this: the CANADA FARMER is gradually making its way and extending its influence in farming communities, and the arduous labours of its Editor and his corps of assistants are properly appreciated by nine-tenths of its readers. I am frequently told by subscribers that one particular

article has more than paid for a year's subscription; and one gentleman said that he had actually saved fifteen dollars by the advice and instructions given in one single article. Another merit it possesses, which we appreciate highly, it proves a valuable assistant in procuring members to agricultural societies. There is less trouble in getting men who read the CANADA FARMER to unite in an agricultural association, than those who do not. This picture should more than counterbalance the "shady" one first presented. R. W. S.

Woodstock, Feb., 9th, 1867.

Barren Grape Vines, and Orchard Planting.

"R. G. F." sends us from Aldborough, the following communication:—"I wish to enquire through your paper the proper treatment of grape vines of 12 or 14 years' standing, which have never borne any fruit. The treatment received heretofore was cutting out some of the oldest timber. Also, I wish to set out an orchard of 50 trees. Please state the most profitable kinds—also the distance they should be set apart—the soil most suitable, and the time of year best calculated to set them out."

ANS.—In regard to the first enquiry, we should be disposed to abandon all hope of vines that had been so long unproductive; and believe the only effective treatment in the case would be to dig up the old stocks, and replace with young vines of approved sorts. For information on the next subject of his letter, we refer our correspondent to the Fourth Number of THE CANADA FARMER, Vol. III., February 15th, where he will find a list of fruits recommended by the Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association. From this he will be able to select the kinds most suitable for his purpose. In making his selections, he should take care to have some early sorts, and a large proportion of good keeping winter apples.

The proper distance apart for setting apple trees in an orchard depends somewhat upon the kinds selected; but for an orchard of mixed sorts we believe a good plan is to set the rows 30 feet apart, and the trees in the rows at twenty feet apart. The wider space between the rows gives more room for the waggon. The soil best adapted for apple trees is a deep gravelly strong loam, alike removed from mere sand, gravel or clay, and if calcareous, all the better. It will flourish on a variety of soils, but it is essential that the ground should be dry, and artificial draining should be had recourse to, if necessary. The proper time for transplanting fruit trees in this climate, we believe to be as early in the spring as possible.

White Durham Cattle.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Perhaps you will be kind enough to insert, in an early number of your journal, your opinion regarding white cattle, and if the colour only is any fault in the animal, provided the other points are good. St. Foy's, C.E. MATTHEW DAVIDSON.

ANS.—By "White Cattle," we presume our correspondent means white Durhams, or Shorthorns. If so, the question of colour is a matter of taste. Some of the purest and best bred Shorthorns are perfectly white; a circumstance more common formerly than at present. Modern breeders seem to prefer a roan, or red, spotted with white. A Shorthorn animal having its most important points well and harmoniously developed, colour is a matter of very secondary importance. The old saying that "a good horse can never be of a bad colour," will also apply, in a great measure, to more than one breed of cattle.

CROP OF MANGOLDS.—Dr. Stinson, of St. George, Brant Co., informs us that from a piece of land measuring 131 feet by 58 feet, he last fall harvested 10,750 pounds of yellow mangolds. They were well cleaned and carefully weighed.

STONE FOR STABLE FLOORS.—On this subject "Briar" says:—"I have used stone for my stable floor for the past ten years with perfect satisfaction, and to it I attribute, in no small degree, the improved condition of my horses' feet. To my mind it is most unreasonable to expect a horse's foot to remain healthy, when it is suspended on three points, and the frog never allowed to come in contact with the ground, as must be the case on a plank floor."