

HORTICULTURAL GOSSIP.—XIII.

BY L. WOOLVERTON, GRIMSBY.

THE FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR, (*Clisiocampa sylvatica*), is more numerous this year about Grimsby than ever I have seen it. I had just read the other day of the great devastation committed by the army worms in northern New York State, when I found our orchards swarming with these caterpillars. Leaves were loaded with them here and there on each tree, and great broods on the branches.

They differ from the American Tent Caterpillar, (*C. Americana*), in that they do not congregate under webs, and in having a series of white stripes along the back instead of a continuous white line. Another distinguishing feature is the color, which is of a paler hue. Generally they are not friendly with the last named, seldom being numerous in the same orchard. How true it is that the fruit grower to be successful must exercise the most restless vigilance. These enemies will very speedily strip an orchard bare of foliage if left unchecked. I found I must deal carefully with them, for they are more wary than their American cousins, which hide under their webs and calmly submit to death. They will drop to the ground if disturbed and escape unless you are prepared for their manoeuvres. Where I found them congregated on a limb I gathered them on a flat trowel-shaped board and there destroyed them, and where they were huddled on a leaf high up, I cut the twig down with a long Waters' pruner and stamped out their hateful lives.

THE FALLING OF PEACH LEAVES is a more perplexing trouble to peach growers just now than any insect foe, for we know no way of meeting it except with resignation. What does it mean? The leaves throughout the orchards are wilting and falling—we know not why. Some trees look as if they were just transplanted, and were dying for want of moisture. A little while ago the trees were full of blossoms, and peach growers were beginning to solace themselves with the expectation of a good crop and long prices. But, lo! in a night our hopes are vanished. Is it a premonition of a wide spread destruction of peach orchards by the yellows, or is it some new disease? We are yet at a loss to say.

THE YELLOWS.—A meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Grimsby was held the other day in the Town Hall, Grimsby, for the