

large size will make it popular in the market, coming in as it does about the first of October, when good peaches are scarce.

The *Steven's Rareripe* is a white fleshed peach, resembling in almost every respect the Old Mixon tree, but later, coming in about the first week in October; it is not quite free-stone, but would come under that

class. The quality is excellent, and the tree productive.

Smith's Extra Late seems to be all he claims for it. This sample measures about eight inches in circumference, is yellow flesh and skin, a perfect free stone. It is of the same season as the others, and in our judgment a valuable market peach and superior to Centennial, except in size.

THE SPARROW NUISANCE.

SIR,—I send you a clipping from the *Star*, on the sparrow. You will see by it that the "old farmer" deals as harshly with the sparrow's friends as with the wee birdies themselves. We agree with him, however, that they are a nuisance, far more destructive than useful. Our American cousins are wide-awake in the matter, and I am told by one of themselves that a bounty of two cents for every one shot is now paid or proposed to be, as also a "sparrow day" to be appointed, when every one able to handle a gun is expected to go sparrow shooting. We would do well to follow suit. From the same source I learned that in the crop of one sparrow, he shot, he found sixty-four grains of oats.—JOHN CROIL, *Aultsville*.

DOWN ON THE SPARROW.

SIR,—Two parties write in favor of the sparrow introduced by some spooney into this country some years ago to please a lot of children and old women. These destructive birds are held up as being useful in Canada by two writers, one Chas. Hughes and the other "Aliquis."

The latter speaks of a proverb that the strongest man has a weak place somewhere. To come to the point I would say that both these men are troubled in their top garret when they plead for the safety of the most destructive bird that ever was made. The extermination of the sparrow in England could never be accomplished, there being such facilities for breeding under the eaves of houses, also in the stacks of grain, which stand sometimes for several seasons before being sold and the number of young ones in a nest is

from ten to fifteen, with three and sometimes four nests in a year. Yet you find men who advocate the safe-keeping of these destructive pests, who know as much about the sparrow as the sparrow knows about them. I can inform these two if they want knowledge about the sparrow that they need not appeal to authors or books, but go and get information from the practical English farmer who can tell with certainty that they destroy millions of bushels of wheat while soft in the ear, for they won't eat anything that is hard. That being the case they then fly to the gardens, making destruction on the various fruits when nearly ripe, particularly white and red currants. They cut the bunches off with their bill and these, falling to the ground, are left to rot. Let these two enquire round the outskirts of our city and you will find the same complaint existing in Canada. Having been in Canada for thirty years I can say they have been the means of nearly exterminating all our pretty song birds. We also have in our woods the red squirrel. These little animals can't rest for them, for they pursue them in scores, driving them from tree to tree until they find refuge in some hole for safety. I hope and trust that the praiseworthy petition of Alderman Prefontaine will pass the board without a dissent.—RETIRED YORKSHIRE FARMER, AGE 73.