

prove reliable as remedies for this dreaded plague of our apple orchards, we may yet grow the Green Newtown Pippin as our best Winter apple, the Fall Pippin as our best fall Apple and the Early Harvest as our best summer apple.

SCHOOL GROUNDS is the subject of the editorial in a recent number of the *Garden and Forest*, in which the editor commends Mr. Chase's suggestion that prizes be offered for the best kept and most tastefully embellished school grounds. Would it not be even better if the Government would give a special grant to every school for excellence in this way, the amount to be based upon the approximation to some high standard of excellence which should be designed anew every year by an expert, and distributed among the trustees or teachers of each section. One very important feature in planting school grounds is the educational; they should teach not only the proper disposal of walks and lawns, and flower beds among trees and shrubbery, but also some knowledge of our native trees themselves, and with this in view it is a mistake to plant too many of a kind. We think that each returning Arbor Day it should be the rule that no tree be planted which is a duplicate of any already growing on the school grounds, and thus, with a proper system of labeling, our school grounds would soon become a place where our children would become familiar with the characteristics of our many varieties of forest trees almost without any mental effort.

RURAL NEW YORKER No. 2 POTATO has been tested at the Michigan Agricultural College, and is thus described:—

In form, nearly as broad as long and flattened. Skin, white; eyes, few and inconspicuous. Generally very smooth and regular, although an occasional prong manifests itself. Flesh, very white and mealy when

cooked. This potato is quite productive and is an extremely valuable variety. Had it been grown under better conditions it might have headed the list. Well worth planting.

THE PURPLE LEAVED BEECH.—The *Garden and Forest* advises grouping this tree with beeches of the normal hue, or failing in this, with the Horse Chestnut, or the Scarlet Maple. Grouped with the White Pine or Norway Spruce, its effect would be ruined. As a general rule, however, it is better planted as a single lawn tree, where it attracts much attention on account of its peculiar color and beautiful symmetrical form.

OCEAN RATES FOR APPLES.—Mr. George Thom, of the Beaver Line, sends us a sailing card, and quotes the rates for apples to Liverpool at two shillings and sixpence, or about 60 cents.

The Woodpecker.

MR. NICOL's article on the Woodpecker, page 95, calls forth the following comments from the *Orillia Packet*:—

How mortifying—after your little friend has flitted away on his kindly errand—to take up the April number of the *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* to find all your pretty theories knocked into a cocked-hat. Your favorite, with the red top-knot, is also a sap-sucker; and while he has been gammoning you with the idea that he has been catching insects, he has, in reality, been boring holes and sucking the sap—nay, the very life—out of your white birches; every hole he makes being, so to speak, “a nail in its coffin.” This places you on “the horns of a dilemma,” and the notion of a full grown man or woman being put into such a degrading position by a six-inch-long woodpecker, or sap-sucker, seems absurd, but shows what mites we are with all our swag-gering. You can't “eat your cake