

REES.

of organisms, to be looked at than that of great animal one; its old seed that fact, hence is well as ashes. The sure has been farmers, who out of this crops, leaves, fruits. How junction with woody fibre, unknown to the fact of its big long since use of barren- carried off by with no re- e. How many ave been sent America, and mp. Luckily y another, and le quantity of ed and in the ce of soda from ica is brought

call attention growers have orant of, the as a vegetable constituent of v thrown away both by experi- a fair share to our obser- ing a mixture d the stems of ularly early in a general rule, peaches, &c., ooth in quality and vines would only one experi- years ago, we apple tree as height of eight with a compost h, and a little filling was se- ls. The next it was sixteen tree that had for some time. what followed. the filling, that o flourish and

l another point . This is the fruit in general t is also in some h years come, h at their pros- y all people do ould be temper- fruit as well as er trimming and bearing years more than half ne improvement e future effect. Next Feb- oss. Next Feb- according to lati- stimulate and with a fair sup- every case he uit in the non- ican.

LE. er hear that the than the other? at the notion, but in future. Here, r our hard day's eeping crimson est the sun goes reetened by clover under the maple r; sure well are which in such secure us an air

Silver Maple—is few Maples,” is when he begins t. He has these. There is about g beauty of the mple majesty the s would put them ts own kindred it a despised by its

own sisters and with none to say for it a word. The Norway and Sycamore pride themselves on their dense dark heads,—the spring pays homage to the youthful beauty of the Red species,—and the lovely yellow and scarlet of the Sugar cause boundless admiration in the fall tie of the year.

The Silver Maple has none of these things. Its early spring flowers are no more than bursting-bud scales. There is no particular beauty in leaves or branches; and when every thing in autumn more or less clothes itself in some gay color for the harvest festival, it simply bides its time. But it has its sterling virtues. It grows with great rapidity; asks no favor at the hands of skillful gardeners; but is ready to grow anywhere at the wish of the rich or the poor, the unlearned or the learned, and we will add with a grateful shade, which, as the store keeper says of his substantial goods, defies competition.

We cannot afford to do without trees like these. We like the mental part of the gardening. We love to hear trees and flowers talk, and to ponder over their wise sayings; but here in the dog days, with every thing parched and burning up about us, we think none the less of gardening that it brings to us comforts for the body as well as for the mind. It must be confessed, however, that the Silver Maple is too large a grower to be a good street tree in closely built up districts; but when there is room for it to spread its rapid growing branches, there is none that will prove more acceptable on the whole.

We should like to see our landscape gardeners pay more attention to this idea of summer shade than they do. It is not so much shade, as to the breezy coolness that is desirable. Many a plantation of trees and shrubs are so arranged as to look remarkably well.—The mental effort is a complete success; and yet the “air” is shut out and close sultriness prevails. A few hints of this kind at this season of the year, will be timely, as people can look about them to see where improvements of this desirable character can well be brought in.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

GRAPE CULTURE.

The cultivation of the vine in this Province has, during the past few years, reached a magnitude which very few would have conceived it capable of reaching in this latitude a decade ago. In 1871, the Hon. D. Reesor, having become practically as well as theoretically conversant with the cultivation of the grape vine, partly as an experiment, although fully satisfied of its ultimate profitability, planted nearly seven acres of vines, embracing thirteen different varieties. Among the finest in his vineyard, as a dessert grape, is the Delaware, which when ripe is of a claret color and very delicious. There are other varieties of a sub-acid flavor, which are preferred by some. Almost since the cultivation of the vine was in its infancy, which we presume cannot be traced farther back than the creation, even though Darwinian disciples might claim its pre-Adamite existence, grapes have been held in high esteem for their medicinal properties. Italy and other countries in southern Europe, where the vine-ries are of unlimited extent, and where great quantities of wine are manufactured, have fewer inebriates in proportion to their population than Great Britain, America and other countries where malt liquors and the extract of corn is principally drunk. Temperance people, instead of looking on the growth of the grape and the wine press with disfavor, might justly consider it one of the channels through which the millennium of their cause would be hastened. The grape unpressed is undoubtedly an excellent tonic, and by its continued use is said to greatly benefit invalids. In a letter received by the gardener to Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Gardens, Frogmore, from the late Sir Robert Peel's gardener, near Geneva, he refers to three very large old vines in his neighborhood, and to the treatment of invalids to what is generally known there as the “Grape cure.” He writes as follows:—“I have ascertained from family documents that they were fine large vines a hundred years ago. The diameters of their stems near the ground is an average of 1 foot 6 inches, equal to a girth of 4 feet 6 inches. The finest of them grows on the slope of Mount Salne; the other two

on the flat plain that at one time probably formed part of the Lake of Geneva; the soil they are growing in is pan chalk, which when dug up in autumn, looks more like a turnpike road than a vine-border; yet these vines are in great vigor, and last autumn, owing to the hot summer, yielded more wine, and of higher quality, than usual. The Lake of Geneva is forty miles long; on both sides it is planted with vines; and during the autumn, hundreds of invalids come from all parts of the world to undergo what is termed the ‘Grape cure’ here. They begin by eating half a pound of grapes a-day, and increase the quantity till it reaches thirteen pounds, when they gradually diminish it. By this means, I have known many remarkable cures effected, even of cancer and

ties show by survey but 1,279 acres of scattering timber, while the total area of these counties is 1,198,280 acres. A bill was introduced in the State Legislature of Minnesota appropriating \$5,000 to aid in planting trees along the public highways, and it only failed of passage in consequence of the absence of some members.

Mr. Hodges' pamphlet gives information in detail respecting the planting soil, and choice of trees, and his estimate of expense is wonderfully cheap. For instance, to plant cuttings for one mile of road, each one foot apart, or 5,280 in all, the cost is but \$15.85. One man can easily stretch the rope and rake the ground, while a lively lad of 15 or 20 can stick them; or in other words, two good hands can plant a mile a

select 240 acres of land in the vicinity of a railroad, enter 80 acres of it under the Homestead Act, 160 acres under the trees planting law, for which he has to pay only the small fee of \$42. He must build his house on the 80 acres, live there, and cultivate the land. He must also at once break 40 acres of his timbered claim, which must be planted with trees within the first 5 years after filling. The remaining 120 acres may be used as farm land. At the expiration of 10 years his 40 acres of timber alone will be worth not less than \$6,000. In addition to these Government encouragements of tree-planting, the State of Minnesota has enacted a law agreeing to pay during a term of ten years \$2 each year for every acre planted with trees, this payment to commence the third year after the plantation is made—thus paying for forty acres \$80 each year, or for ten years \$800. For planting trees along public roads and highways the State also pays \$2 for every half mile, the trees not to be planted more than one rod apart; and if trees are planted on both sides of such roads or highways twice the amount, or \$4 for every half mile, provided the trees are well taken care of and kept in a healthy growing condition. These terms are such a decided encouragement to tree culture that we judge there will be a furor among the Western prairie farmers to agitate the subject and practice it with haste.—*N. Y. Independent.*

The Fox.

Last month we gave a picture of Mr. Fox in his native wild. This month we show his entrance into civilized society, with its benefits and disadvantages to himself. No doubt if he succeeds in grabbing that fine fat chicken which he has his eyes on, he will have a jolly meal, and will feel that civilization is his proper element; but in the morning, when he hears the hounds giving tongue (see cut on page 170), and knows that his last night's meal was too good for him to be able to run well this morning, he will wish his hole and home in the woods was closer, and that he had been satisfied with less dainty delicacies, in some place where dogs were not so plentiful and men so fond of sport.

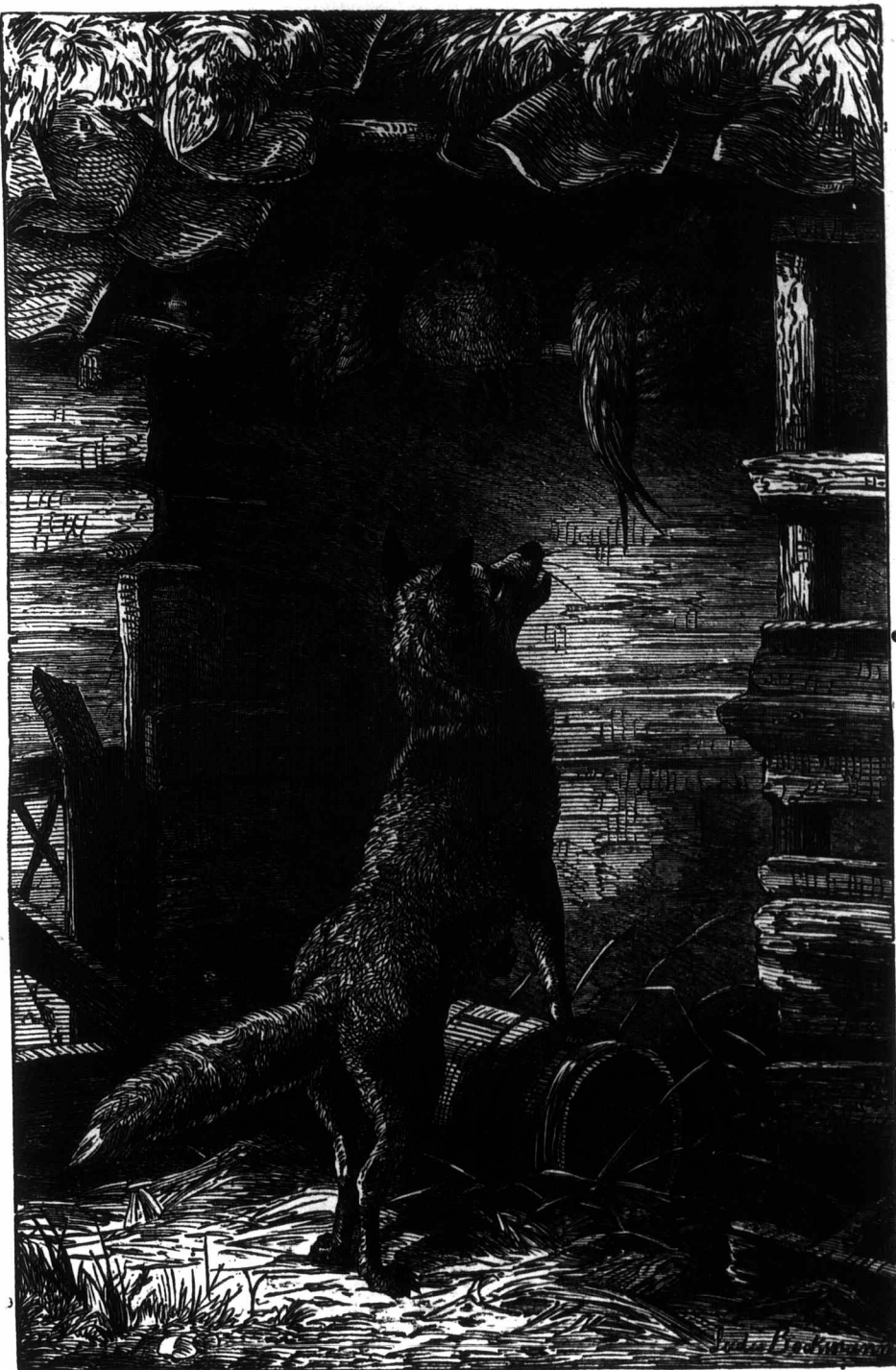
WHY PEARS CRACK.

Concerning this important subject, Thomas Meahan, editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*, writes:

“Pears do not crack when the soil is sufficiently supplied with lime and potash; and they crack most where those salts are deficient. Common wood ashes contain these salts, nearly in the quantity and proportions that pear trees on such soil require—forty per cent. of potash and thirty per cent. of lime. Reasoning from these facts, I applied wood ashes at the rate of four hundred bushels to the acre, after the fruit had formed and cracked. Many of them healed up and made perfect fruit the same season; others not until the next season. A friend, at my suggestion, applied it heavily to a favorite butter-pear tree in his own garden for several years in succession, and has had for several years a perfect and delicious pear, and I will guarantee it to cure any case where the ashes are fairly and abundantly applied.—I was told by an experienced hand that I would kill the tree, but on the contrary, I cured them.—Therefore, do not be afraid; if one application will not suffice, give them a larger dose next year. A moist atmosphere undoubtedly encourages the growth of the tree and fruit, while the insufficiency of proper food prevents the perfection of either; hence cracked fruit and ‘rough old bark.’”

FLORAL DESIGNS.

Where tulips, hyacinths or crocuses are planted in quantity it is a good plan to have some regard for color in their arrangement. A small round bed of crocus, for instance, might have the purple variety in the centre, the yellow round that; next place the striped kind, and, finally, the white; or this order may be reversed with equally good effect. The same arrangement might be observed in border planting by having the colors in separate rows. A very pleasing effect is produced by staking out four rows. Commence the first row by planting about two feet of white crocus, followed with two feet of purple, then



consumption, which have baffled the best medical skill.”

FOREST TREE PLANTING IN MINNESOTA.

The subject of tree planting in Minnesota has assumed an active interest, and we have before us a publication on this point, written by Leonard B. Hodges, superintendent of tree planting of St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. A large portion of the western part of the State is entirely deficient in timber; in fact, there is one almost unbounded and unbroken tract, west of the Big Woods, containing an area of over 12,000,000 of acres of soil extremely fertile, so entirely destitute of timber that it does not average one-tenth of an acre of timber to 100 acres of prairie. Three first-class coun-

day, if the ground is properly prepared for them. He estimates that in five years' time these cuttings will have grown from twenty-five to thirty-five feet high and from three to seven inches at the butt. If planted in the form say of a square of ten acres, some eight feet apart, five years, time would be sufficient to furnish all the fuel and fencing necessary to support a large farm, and afford additional income from sales of fence-poles.

The varieties of timber most recommended are the White Willow, Cottonwood, Lombardy Poplar, Box Elder. Others are not so sure of success, although in our State they do well—White Ash, Black Ash, Ash-leaved Maple, Soft Maple, Elm.

By the new terms of the U. S. tree planting and the homestead law, any citizen can