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The Month.



OCTOBER.

It has been well observed, "is regal, and walks the woods royally with great show of purple and crimson, while a veil of golden mist streams from the turrets of the queenliest of the months." The mean temperatures for this month are yet, similar to those for May, as will be seen by comparing the following table with that which appeared in our article on that month.

Stattford	47° 93'
Hamilton	50° 12'
Barrie	48° 82'
Toronto	49° 09'
Belleville	49° 58'
Montreal	46° 78'
Quebec	46° 59'
St John, N B	44° 35'
Halifax	45° 09'

But if there be similarity between May and October in temperature, there is a very decided dissimilarity in other respects. The air is not Spring-like. It is not charged with the juiciness and stimulus that distinguish the season of growth. There is no show of young shoots, nor smell of wood and soil. Instead of the bursting forth of activity and life throughout nature, there is the hush of repose and the sense of leisure. It is plain that the year is composing itself to rest after its appointed season of toil and bustle. Peace broods upon the hills and valleys. Beauty shines through the mists of morning, and golden glory paints the sunset at even. The forests are decked in a coat of many colours, and all nature puts on holiday attire. Very graphically does Henry Ward Beecher portray this month in one of his "Star Papers." "October! Orchard of the year! Bend thy boughs to the earth, redolent of glowing fruit! Ripened seeds shake in their pods. Apples drop in the stillest hour. Leaves begin to let go when no wind is out, and swing in long wavering to the earth, which they touch without sound, and lie looking up, till winds rake them, and heap them in fence corners. When the gates come through the trees, the yellow leaves

trail, like sparks at night behind the flying engine. The woods are thinner, so that we can see the heavens plainer, as we lie dreaming on the yet warm moss by the singing spring. The days are calm; the nights are tranquil. The year's work is done. She walks in gorgeous apparel, looking upon her long labour, and her serene eye saith 'It is good.'" This description is peculiarly applicable to the Fall season of Canada, and nowhere in the world, perhaps, is the splendid colouring of the dying foliage at this period of the year so striking or beautiful as in our Canadian forests. The marvellous hues that give our woods their autumnal beauty, so rich that a painter can scarcely depict them faithfully without laying himself open to the charge of extravagance, are chiefly due to the prevalence of the maple in our woodland scenery. No other tree can vie with this in the variety and loveliness of the tints which the foliage assumes in its departing glory. The oak, the elm, and beech, with their appropriate drapery add to the charm and grandeur of the scene. Nature puts on a royal robe well befitting the solemn repose that precedes the sterner reign of winter.

But amid this general restfulness, the farmer must not suffer his energies to flag. It is not for him to think of repose yet. There are autumn crops to harvest, and every endeavour must be made to house them in good order. The potatoes must be dug, and happy is he who has one of those newly-invented labour-saving machines known as "potato diggers." If there be any field-work more fit for a horse than a man, it is this tiresome, laborious, back-breaking toil of getting up the potatoes. It is important that fine weather be chosen for potato-digging. They will be less likely to rot if put away dry, and besides they are cleaner and better every way. They should be put into cool and well ventilated cellars, or into pits provided with air and drainage. The same observations apply to other root crops. Turnips will continue to grow through October, and as they will stand considerable frost without injury, harvesting may be postponed until November. Fruit must be gathered this month, and its value will depend much on the care exercised in the process. It should be hand-picked and handled as tenderly as eggs. Orchard trees are often bruised and injured by the inconsiderate use of ladders. This should be avoided, and at all seasons it should be remembered that a tree is a living thing, not to be treated roughly with impunity. Various improvements may be advantageously undertaken this month. We generally do our road work in spring, but in the New England States it was formerly, and for aught we know is now, done in autumn. Better still perhaps it would be to do something at the roads at both periods. We greatly need in all parts of the country a more thorough system of road-making. We go on shovelling the accumulation of the ditch and road-side into the carriage track as though decayed leaves and old turf would

make good footing for iron-shod horses and iron-tired wheels. Rarely is gravelling and metalling undertaken except when a chartered company takes a stretch of road in hand to make money out of it, and then farmers pay for their whistle, when they might have had it for next to nothing were a wise system of statute labour pursued. The fact is, we are too niggardly of time, toil, and outlay on our roads, and do not properly appreciate their value, and the importance of their being well constructed and kept in good repair. October is also an excellent month for all such operations as grading, cleaning, trenching, draining, planting, or building stone wall. There is no better time for cutting timber than just when the leaves are ready to drop from the axils of the newly formed buds of the year to come. Firewood cut this month is represented to be more valuable for heating purposes than when felled at any other season, and cedar or other wood wanted for rustic work will hold its bark better and be more durable if cut in October. Those who prefer to plant their shade or fruit trees in the fall, should have a care not to defer it too late. It is not needful or best to wait until leaves have actually fallen. If there is full ripeness of wood, and the leaves are beginning to drop, it is quite time to transplant if it is to be done in autumn. But we confess ourselves decidedly in favour of spring planting in the latitude of Canada. As observed last month, it will pay to bestow early and thorough attention on fattening stock. Their growth should never be checked by exposure to cold or by short allowance of food. It is advisable also to have all store and working animals in as good condition as possible at the beginning of winter. They will keep more easily for it, and come out in better heart when spring opens. Sheds, barns, and buildings of all kinds must be put in thorough repair before winter, or the comfort of stock will be diminished and the consumption of food increased. This is a good month for out-door painting. It is said to stand better if applied at this period than either during spring or summer. Let the work be done whenever it may, it is labor and expense well bestowed.

A variety of garden operations may be advantageously performed in October. Gathering and stowing of vegetables, manuring, ploughing and spading, that the soil may be mellowed by winter frosts, taking out of the ground bulbs that are tender, and planting hardy ones for early spring flowering; these, and various other odd jobs, will make the garden as well as the farm a busy scene during the present month.

Final preparations for winter must now be made in the apiary. Whatever shifting, uniting of weak stocks, feeding deficient stocks, and the like, may require to be done, should be delayed no longer. Hives should only be opened on warm, sunny days now, if any internal attention is needed, as bees are easily chilled, and do not quickly recover the effects of cold.