

## BLACK SPOTS ON APPLES.

Prescott, Jan. 10, 1882.

I have no doubt that I wrote the article mentioned in your letter of the 9th for the *Canada Farmer*. The fruit of several of my apple trees had been affected with a black taint when they were about half grown; they then shrank and became worthless. I remembered a remedy I had read when a boy for caterpillars and other worms on apple trees, and I thought I would try it on my trees, as I was of opinion that the taint was occasioned by some kind of poison in the sap, and not from the attacks of moths in the fruit. Since that time my apples have been perfectly free from the taint—indeed the change took place the first season after applying the remedy. I inserted the sulphur early in the spring, before the sap began to ascend into the branches. I cannot see that the trees have been injured by the holes having been bored into them; yet I think grafting wax is preferable to wooden plugs—anything to *exclude the water*.

The only enemy that has baffled me is the *Codlin Moth*, and until last season I had almost given up in despair, for he is an insufferable nuisance; and if these moths cannot be conquered we shall lose in quantity and quality immensely.

For the *tent caterpillar* I tie a cotton swab to the end of a long pole, dip it in a pail of pretty strong lye, and easily wipe the tents off in the morning. Last spring I found only two tents on all my trees.

The apple tree *Borer* must be looked after, otherwise he will destroy the trees—ornamental as well as fruit.

My only enemy now, as I said before, is the *Codlin Moth*. However, I think I have a remedy for him also. Last spring, early in April, I tried the experiment on two trees—Duchess of

Oldenburgh and McLean—of tying tightly around their trunks, about 18 inches from the ground, with twine, a piece of cotton cloth about three inches wide; then I daubed the cloth thoroughly with printer's ink, so that no insect could crawl up the trunk without sticking fast in the ink. Although heretofore my Duchess had been affected as much as the other trees, every apple was sound and perfectly mature, and the largest crop I ever had. The McLean tree had a few wormy apples, which I could account for: I was taken sick and could not attend to more. And here let me say that the *Duchess of Oldenburgh* is the surest and most valuable early tree for the locality—the *Brockville Beauty* next. The *Red Astrachan*, although hardy, will not hold its fruit, and the apples burst as soon as ripe. The *Early* or *Yellow Harvest* is too tender for this climate. These trees have all been thoroughly tried. *Fameuse*, if kept clean of borers, in my opinion stands above all others as a fall dessert apple. *Rhode Island Greening*, *Baldwin*, and *Esopus Spitzenburgh*—all magnificent apples, and superior winter apples to all others that I know—are not reliable, being too tender. They have all been grown here, and are not now to be found.

The only enemy I notice to the Plumb is the black knot. I have lost a number of the old Blue Plumb family by it. By the use of coal and wood ashes, and washing with salt brine and sometimes lye, I have kept the black knot off my Jefferson and Egg plumbs pretty well; but I am not sure yet that I have fully succeeded. I have not yet discovered the cause of the black knot. If I knew the cause I would not rest till I found out a cure. No doubt it is a *fungus*, and not the effect of insects. I think it is a poison in the sap, which, perhaps from overstimulation with manure, bursts the