

Horticultural.

TRANSPLANTING.

Below we give a Communication from Mr. George Leslie, proprietor of the Toronto Nursery; and it affords us much pleasure to assure our readers, that, from his long experience in the business, his statements may be fully relied on. We would also call their attention to the fact of his having a large assortment of choice Fruit Trees, Shrubs, &c. &c., for sale. We are in hopes of being favoured with *seasonable* articles from his pen on the proper management of the orchard, and fruit and flower garden; for, as he justly observes, "the value of a good orchard is not fully appreciated in this country;" and we shall endeavour to make the Horticultural Department of our paper as instructive as possible.

To the Editor of the *Farmer and Mechanic*.

Toronto Nursery, Kingston Road,
14th March, 1849.

DEAR SIR,—The revolving year has again brought round the season for transplanting Fruit Trees. The increasing interest with which this subject begins to be regarded ought to be fostered and encouraged. A good method of doing this is to bring it *seasonably* under the notice of your readers; and it is hoped the following practical suggestions may be of some service to such (and I hope they are a large number) as contemplate planting out trees this spring. I have been engaged in the business of tree culture for twenty years in this neighbourhood. In recommending varieties of fruit, I shall mention only such kinds as personal observation has convinced me are quite suitable for this region.

The value of a good orchard is not yet fully appreciated in this country. It is a subject which commends itself to every owner of a piece of land, from the farmer, with his hundreds of acres, to the merchant and mechanic, with their town and village lots. Many considerations present themselves to urge upon all the necessity of planting out fruit trees; amongst others, the positive profit resulting to the proprietor, from the ready sale and high price that good fruit does command, ought not to be overlooked. A great augmentation of

domestic comfort is also ensured. The favourable nature of our soil and climate are, in addition, cogent reasons why every family should possess an abundance of choice fruit. Moreover, Canada has a right to share, with other parts of North America, the profit and honour of having her fruit shipped to all parts of the world.

It is superfluous to insist on the necessity of cultivating good fruit. This is universally acknowledged. The progress of civilization and refinement, the increase of population, and the accumulation of wealth invariably create a greater demand for the finer productions of the garden and orchard than can be produced. Besides, the exportation of fruit to the European markets is already an important and increasing branch of the commerce of the United States. American apples are universally popular in England: fruit, of even second-rate quality, is eagerly purchased at a high price. The facilities for procuring fruit-trees, of first-rate excellence, are now such as to leave no excuse for the cultivation of poor, inferior sorts.

Complaints are often heard of the failure of trees after being planted out. This is not surprising, when we consider the source from which many of them have been procured. Such trees as are to be seen hawked through the country may, and generally have been so long out of the ground, and their roots exposed to the sun and air, as completely to dry them up, and destroy their vitality. If people are tempted, under the idea of their being cheap, to purchase such trees, it is no wonder that disappointment is the frequent result. Let your trees be procured from respectable sources: the proprietors of established nurseries find it their interest to do their best for their customers. Such as may favour the Toronto Nursery with a trial, with the view of purchasing trees, would do well, when convenient, to bring their waggons to the ground, and have their trees taken up, and carried home with them. They may then often be planted within forty-eight hours after being dug; and if the following directions for transplanting are carefully followed, success may reasonably be anticipated:—

Have the ground for your orchard securely