

all, for he stays to cheer us all the dreary winter. Surely we should not grudge him a little grain from horse droppings, with the addition of a few crumbs from the table cloth. So I sincerely hope those gentlemen will reconsider their decision, and spare the poor little emigrant for the good he does, and lay nothing to his charge but what they actually know he is guilty of.

So, hoping you will excuse me for occupying so much of your valuable space,

I remain, yours,

S. HUNTER,  
Scotland.

Hawthorn Place,  
April 18th, 1884.

#### TO PROTECT TREES FROM MICE.

As you plead for short articles from your readers bearing on horticulture, allow me to give you my experience of a very simple and effectual way of saving young apple trees from the attacks of mice in winter. I take strips of cedar bark about eighteen inches long, and adjust them round the tree, putting one end on the ground and tying the upper ends with a piece of twine so that the strips lie close to the tree. I just put the strips in my wheelbarrow and go round before the snow falls and attach the *armour* to each tree; and then in spring I go round again, cut the string and gather up the cedar strips, as they will last for years. At first I used bits of shingles, but the bark is better. I rub down my trees with soft soap every spring, applied with the foot of an old worsted sock, and as far up the tree as I can reach. I daresay a paint brush would do, but the other is more effective. I like *The Horticulturist* very much, and hope all good gardeners will help it to the best of their ability.

Yours truly,

AN OLD BACKWOODSMAN.

Fergus, 12th April, 1884.

#### ANNUAL REPORT.

PINE GROSBEEK.

Thanks to Mr. T. McIlwraith for his instructive letter on the above class of birds. It is quite evident it was wrongly named, though I sent specimens to Toronto for that purpose. At the same time there is no mistake about the havoc they committed on my peach and cherry trees which was witnessed by many others besides myself. We had fully as many specimens of the male as the female birds, and for their beauty and their gentle, confiding habits I would like their society; but I am satisfied any fruit grower whose trees suffered from their ravages as mine did the winter of 1882-3, would have as little compunction destroying them as they would do a robin.

The Annual Report is to hand, a ponderous book of valuable suggestions, which will be worth many times the annual subscription.

J. BISSELL,

Thedford, April 26th, 1884.

#### NORTH SIMCOE.

MR. EDITOR.—Your *Horticulturalist* is a valuable work, and it only wants to be known among the farming community to be properly appreciated. I should feel it a great loss to be deprived of the information it imparts, after enjoying its pages so many years; and the Report, which is full of good news and instruction for the fruit grower. The information cannot be surpassed. I fully enjoy the articles contained in the *Horticulturalist*, especially when it comes from the North. The two articles written from North Simcoe were satisfactory, with the exception of that part that referred to the apples, which were denounced by each writer. While our correspondent speaks of the value of one kind of apple too highly, he runs to the extreme in denouncing the others. He speaks of his limited experience of