

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

MEXICAN STRAWBERRY.

Dear Sir:—In your December No. I find a long article on the excellent qualities of the Mexican Ever-Bearing Strawberry, written, I suppose, by a person who was ashamed to sign his name in full, therefore we get merely "J.H.P." In this article, I find my name mentioned as one of those who have ventured to express an opinion on this extensively advertised, but tasteless little fruit; and motives imputed to me for so doing. My first thought on reading the article was to treat it with silent contempt, but thinking my silence might be used by "J.H.P." to procure him more customers for his plants, I beg to say a few words in reply.

First, in regard to the insinuation of J.H.P., that my reason for condemning the Mexican, was because I was interested in raising new strawberries myself, I beg to say that during the last fifteen years, I have raised thousands of seedling strawberries, infinitely superior in size, flavor, and productiveness to the Mexican, yet not one of them has ever been offered to the public, because of their inferiority as compared with such old varieties as Willson's, Albany, Hooker, Jenny Lind, and Agriculturist, and judging from the last two season's test in my grounds, I am inclined to think that the above named good old varieties now thrown into the shade by such new kinds as Napoleon III, Charles Downing, Dr. Nicaise, Nicanor, and several other new varieties. To compare the size of the Mexican with Dr. Nicaise, is like comparing a little Cherry Crab apple to a well-grown Northern Spy, or to compare the productiveness of the Mexican with Willson's, is like comparing the degenerated old Pink Eye Potato to Harrison, Early Rose, Bruses' Prolific, or Climax.

As to the flavor of the Mexican, no one will surely speak of that, for it really has no flavor to speak of, of any kind, either good, bad, or indifferent.

The rich fragrance of the Mexican, is much dwelt upon by the pedlars of the plants, but it is not fit to compare in fragrance to Mr. Bishop's Canada Seedling. In my opinion, Mr. Editor, the Mexican has only one valuable quality, and that is its continuing for a long time in bearing, and this quality is only valuable in the hands of the skillful hybridizer, as a parent from which to raise new crossbred seedlings, that shall approach the size of Dr. Nicaise, or Napoleon III, the flavor of Hooker or Downing, with the fragrance of Bishop's Canada.

I do not like the term "humbug," Mr. Editor, and think we are all of us too apt to use it, but if the term is justifiable anywhere in Horticulture, it is, in my opinion, to the men who have written so many long articles in praise of the Mexican Strawberry. But I suppose anyone who dares to express their opinion upon this strawberry, render themselves liable to be called "Granny" by J.H.P.

But I feel confident that every honest man in the country will thank Mr. A. S. Fuller for giving his opinion freely upon this subject. Why, I ask, was it submitted to a committee, at the N.Y. State Fair under the name of Maximilian, and after that committee who were "unanimous in pronouncing it nothing more than the old Monthly Red Alpine, of no practical value whatever," that its name was changed to Mexican?

Oh but says J.H.P., Mr. Meehan, Elliot, and Dr. Warden, speak in high terms of this Mexican. Do they indeed! All that I can say on this point, is that I have heard Mr. Meehan, Elliot, and Dr. Warden, speak both in public and in private upon this subject, and have yet to learn that either of these gentlemen have said that this strawberry was fit to eat. All that they contend for, is that botanically, it is a distinct variety, and to botanists only can this point be interesting. On page 73 of the American Phrenological Society's Report for 1869, we find Mr.

Meehan says: "Some botanists got at it and called it a new species—a point which interested him as a botanist. His examination led him to consider it not a new species, but a variety distinct from the old Red Alpine. Dr. Warden and Mr. Elliot both speak of it as a distinct variety, exhibiting in the proprietor's grounds great productiveness which may perhaps be partially attributable to the season. Mr. Fuller of N.J., said he considered it no more nor less than the old Red Alpine, and if any one wanted plants to compare, he would send them free of charge."

I would just mention in closing, that one gentleman in this town, in order to get a flavor to this berry, has got a number of plants under glass, but the fruit still continues flavorless.

CHARLES ARNOLD,

Paris, Ont., Jan. 17th 1870.

Our pages are open to fair discussion on any important subject that may be of advantage to our readers. We do not wish any to be personally abusive, still when names are used, it is but right to allow anyone to defend himself against any charge. We do not deem the Maximilian Strawberries deserving of much space in our paper, and further, we should request, out of fairness to both parties and the public, that when discussions arise, the writers may give their real names to the public. There is a great advantage given if one is allowed to attack another from behind a screen. We know the bad effect of it from experience. Some years since we wrote an article which appeared in the *Canada Farmer*. It was replied to under a fictitious name, and we were held up to ridicule. We wrote a brief reply of 12 lines, at the same time asking for the real name of the person that wrote against us, but to our astonishment the name could not be found, and Mr. Clarke the Editor, would not allow it to appear unless we paid 20c per line for it. That was one of the reasons of the establishment of this journal. Brown at length had enough of his services. The Government aided him to run the Conservative Agl. Paper. We hear he has put that paper into Mr. White's hands, and he is aiding to publish an American paper. Perhaps his next step will be an Annexation paper, if it is not that already. We trace his downward steps and the downward steps of the *Canada Farmer*, to withholding a name. We wish to avoid that rock.—[Ed.]

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

SHADE TREES.

Sir:—I observe by the published proceedings of the Council of the Board of Agriculture, that they endorsed a recommendation of the Fruit Grower's Association, to take steps to induce people to plant shade trees for shelter; and the Council by resolution have expressed their willingness to adopt any scheme having for its object the fostering and encouragement of tree planting generally throughout the province.

This is a more important subject than may at first sight appear. I removed from the Niagara to the London District, in 1846. At that time, the value of timber and trees were known and appreciated in the Niagara District. But not so in the London district, where I have seen choice timber, not excepting Black Walnut, cut into logging lengths and burned on the ground where it grew. At the rate our Railway Companies, Oil Wells, Cities, Towns, Manufactories, and Farmers, consume wood in Ontario, the growth is insufficient to make good the destruction, and fencing material will, ere long, have to be composed of hedges, wire, and stone.

I am of opinion that the time has arrived when tree planting for other purposes than those of shade and protection, should be practical in many parts of Canada; and I would be glad to see some action taken by Local Municipalities for the encouragement or compulsion of tree planting for shade and protection from drouth, as well

as wind, as it is a well established fact that large forests, or a goodly number of trees, will prevent a diminution of the rain fall. I know of no more practicable mode or scheme to start and encourage tree planting, than for Municipalities to appropriate a portion of the Statute labor for that purpose, along such highways as the municipal councils may select. I believe the Municipal Law encourages the right to plant as well as protect shade trees by local municipalities, and in most of the older settled portions of Ontario, a portion of the statute labor could be annually spared, and profitably expended in planting shade trees.

Yours truly,

JAMES KEEFER.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

Dear Sir:—You give excellent advice to the readers of the *Advocate*, when you recommend them to test for themselves the different new varieties of seeds, and hold fast that which is good. Particularly so with some of the new sorts of potatoes: as the Early Rose, Early Goodrich, and the Harrison. I have grown them for the past two seasons, and cannot say too much in their favor. The Early Rose yielded, with me, at the rate of 168 to one of seed, and their quality for the table is the very best. The Early Goodrich yielded at the rate of 250 bushels per acre of excellent quality for eating. The Harrisons are the best yielders I ever grew, and for a late potato, very desirable. Nearly all the Tubers are large and not liable to rot.

ELIAS MOTT,

Norwich, Jan. 8th, 1870.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate.

LEGAL HINTS FOR FARMERS.

BY GEO. P. LAND, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

INTRODUCTORY.

Whatever drawbacks and disadvantages the farmers of Ontario labored under formerly, in the matter of Education, it can scarcely be said at the present day that they are not supplied with every facility to acquire education. I use the term in its fullest sense. What with our system of schools to teach the farmers and his children "the ordinary branches,"—with agricultural periodicals and papers to afford him and them an opportunity of acquiring what is known as technical education—with a thousand other sources of information, the cry is beginning to be heard among farmers that they are becoming, in fact, *over educated*. This may be, and no doubt is, true to some extent, so far as Common School Education is concerned; but it is far otherwise as regards the education which teaches the farmer the science and principles of his business—the best kinds of soils and seeds—the best farming implements, &c. Knowledge of this kind is, no doubt, absolutely essential to the farmer of the present day. But there is another species of knowledge, though not, perhaps, so essential to him as this—is nevertheless, of very great importance to him, and which, up to the present time, he has had little or no means of acquiring. It would, I should think, be very difficult to find a farmer who would not admit that it is of the greatest importance to him to be sure he is going to *reap* where he has *sown*,—that after spending the best years of his life in reclaiming from the forest his farm and improving it, that he and his inheritance shall enjoy the fruits of his energy and industry for all time to come thereafter. The proprietor of this paper very justly thinks he would be conferring a benefit on the farmers by giving them, through his columns; information which would secure these results; and, at his request, I have undertaken to furnish it. I purpose, therefore, in a series of short articles, which will appear in each successive number of this paper, to instruct the farming community in the "Learning of the Law," so far