

Orchard and Garden.—No. 9.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH, BY H. ORTL.

Everything should be done before the winter sets in that will save time in the spring. Those who, having purchased trees this fall, unless their ground is very dry, or they make it so, would act wisely to heel their trees in a high sheltered spot, or else bury them underneath the soil altogether; still better it would be to put them in the cellar or root-house, loosening them out of the bundle and cover the roots over with dry earth, sand, or sawdust. Fall planting is as successful as spring if only a little attention is paid to drainage and mulching. We would advise all who have cellar-room and intend planting, to purchase in the fall; they will in most cases procure better stock, more true to name and less exposure in transit. Those who have already planted should be careful to stake immediately, and also to heap the soil a foot high round the tree, which will serve as a protection against mice, frost, &c. Give bearing trees a good mulching of well rotted manure, all kinds of fruits will be benefited by this operation.

Raspberries, currants and gooseberries should be well manured; this can be easier done now than in spring, the ground being dry and firm.

Grapevines will require pruning according to the various systems practised by the growers, and left ready to be laid down when opportunity offers, and to be covered with earth; we think this to be the simplest and safest covering.

When pruning the vines a few shoots might be left at the base for the purpose of layering for young plants. This has been a favorable season for ripening the grape, all varieties succeeding finely and ripening in localities that have not been blessed in grape culture for some time. Nothing like thorough efficient drainage in all seasons.

This is a good time to make and plant cuttings of currants, gooseberries, willows, poplars; in fact, the majority of stock propagated by this method. Having trimmed your bushes, make the cuttings of the new wood, it being best, from eight to ten inches long; select a good, loamy, dry piece of soil, which manure and plow or dig deeply. Having got it into decent condition, draw a line and cut out a trench with the spade deep enough to receive the cutting so as to allow one or two buds to be exposed (as shown in cut), then fill in and tread firmly, covering and finishing up evenly and neatly. After your piece is planted be careful to mulch the rows with manure, or other substance, to prevent upheaval by frost. By following these few directions you can grow any quantity of fine bushes for your own planting, or can be disposed to good advantage.

Be careful to collect all the leaves and other litter to be spread on beds and borders; all hardy shrubs and flowering roots are benefited by mulching, which will prevent the frost from penetrating too deep.

Roses should be cut to within a foot of this season's growth and carefully covered. All trees and plants suffer as much or more from exposure to the sun than the frost; of course it is the two extremes that makes the mischief; anything that will shade stock will therefore be of value. In protecting roses care should be observed not to use any wet matter, or that which will retain moisture, as the wood rots very easily, and moisture intensifies the frost; we have known a fine collection of hardy roses entirely ruined by wet and rotten mulching.

Rhubarb might be dug up and divided, if only a few roots, and replanted in a rich piece; nor well ordered garden should be without a good patch,

and a bed of asparagus also. The procuring of a few plants of each costs but a trifle, and once in possession, can be indefinitely multiplied.

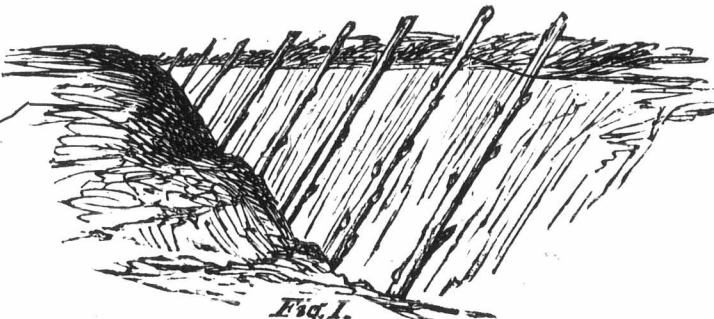
Seeds of the barberry and blackthorn should be bruised and washed a little before sowing; mixing with sand will facilitate the operation; they can be sown in drills similar to turnips. The nuts of the horse chestnut might be gathered now and sown in drills, covering with an inch or so of soil; they would require mulching after sown. Mountain ash seed might be gathered and treated as directed. The time is coming, and not far distant, when every effort will be necessary for the propagation and planting of trees, even for the ordinary purposes of fencing and firewood, let alone what will be required for building and manufacturing.

All tools and machinery will require collecting and storing away; oil thoroughly to prevent rust, and arrange things in proper order.

Examine your drains; see that they are in a working condition.

Correspondence.

SIR—I left Winnipeg at 1 p. m. on the 23rd of September to make a short walking tour. For four miles out of Winnipeg, on the Portage La Prairie road, you find a very fine country, well settled by old settlers. About three miles from town there is a large brewery, where I stopped and talked to the brewer, who seems to think that there will be a good demand for barley when the season opens for brewing, which will be very shortly. A little further on is the farm of Hon. James Mackay, who, I



believe, has between 260 and 300 acres under crop. I am sorry to say he was not at home, so I could not see the place. From here I got a lift with a young Irishman who is going to settle up here. He has been up here a year now, and says that he likes the country very much. Thanking him when we got into the parish of Headingly, I got out and walked down between two farms to a gentleman's who I travelled from Ontario with. Not finding him at home, I went on to a Mr. Hall's, who I had a letter of introduction to, who lives about one mile down the River Assinaboine, on which Headingly is situated. When I got there he was out in the field digging potatoes, so I thought I would go out there and see him, and in that way I should be able to see what sort of crop he had. After showing him my letter of introduction, he very kindly asked me to stay the night with him, which I did very willingly. I must say I was surprised at the crop of potatoes. I think that they would go about 400 to 500 bushels per acre. I had no time before dark to go over the rest of the farm, but Mr. Hall very kindly gave me the benefit of his experience during the evening. He told me that the wheat especially, and all the grain somewhat, is damaged by the very heavy rains that there were for a week or two just when the grain was ripe. All the time through the grasshopper plague Mr. Hall was lucky enough to save a good deal of stuff. On the morning of the 24th (Sunday) I went round the place, and saw crops that were growing and also the grain which is stacked. The wheat is not bright, but, all the same, I think it will make a very fair sample of flour. I went out to see some timothy which Mr. Hall saved this year, and some of it was three feet high; I never in my life saw such a growth in one year. The next thing that I went to see was the garden. If anyone had told me that vegetables could have been grown to such size I would not have believed them; parsnips 30 inches under the ground, cabbages as big again as in Ontario, and all other vegetables in proportion. Then came the

fruit—plums and apples growing nicely, but not bearing yet, though there were a few Transcendent crabs bearing. Small fruit seems to do well here, though, of course, I could not see them bearing, as they are all over. From Mr. Hall's I walked along the banks of the river and saw the country, which I think is a very fine country for emigration: vast prairies composed of from 13 inches to 4 feet of vegetable earth and a clay subsoil, which is the best soil possible; there is not the slightest doubt that it will grow immense crops. At night I stopped at a Mr. Morgan's, an old settler, and he told me that he only once had a total loss of his crops, and that was from the grasshoppers. Mr. M. is supposed to have one of the finest gardens in the Province, and he certainly has the best one. I have seen from about three acres, he told me he made \$1,400 last year. This year he expects to have 10,000 bushels of roots to put in his cellars, and he expects to realize good prices. I believe that Mr. Morgan's crop will average nearly double a usual Ontario crop. I will give you a short general account of the country. It may be called a vast prairie, but it has some wooded country round the rivers and lakes. The best place now for emigrants to go is to the Pembina Mountains; it is a fine country with both wood and prairie; but I think that it will mostly be taken up next spring. Some people in Ontario think that this country is destitute; but really there is more life here than in Ontario. I will write no more for this month's paper, as I shall be intruding; but if any Ontario farmers want to know anything about the country I shall be glad to tell them. W. H. DISBROW.

SIR,—About the marl: where I have applied it at the rate of two or three hundred pounds to the acre, it did not appear to the eye to have derived any benefit from it; but where I have put a couple of tons of it per acre it was quite visible, especially on potatoes, peas and clover.

This is my sixth year's subscription, and I am not sorry for the money I gave for it, for I consider it is worth (your paper, the ADVOCATE, I mean) many times the money I gave for it; I am pretty sure that I have made some hundreds of dollars by the advice I got from it, and expect to make some more. In short, I consider you the best friend that I have.

C. S. DIT B.

Pentanguishene, Sept. 26, 1876.

[Marl, as with other fertilizers, varies in strength in its constituent parts. That applied by you must be uncommonly rich in its constituents, or the quantity (a couple of tons) would have little effect. An American writer says: "We often use the

marl alone for potatoes, cabbage, &c., also as top-dressing for grass; for this latter sometimes from 15 to 20 tons to the acre." The beneficial effects from an application of marl are not wholly immediate, but improves the fertility of soil for some years, in this respect resembling the effects of lime. Would Mr. dit B. be kind enough to write again, stating the particulars of its application?—Ed.]

SIR,—I have a good horse for some time troubled with ringbone in the fore feet. Can you inform me through your valuable paper of any cure for it? Petrolia, Oct. 17, 1876. W. H.

[The only reliable cure is to have him fired and blistered.—J. D. O'NEIL, V.S.]

SIR,—Having read in your FARMER'S ADVOCATE that a successful trial had been made in Scotland to hoist stumps out of the ground with dynamite, we take the liberty to inquire of you if it could be sent for, and how much each cartridge would cost, as there is a great many pine stumps in this locality, and would be anxious to give it a trial. Please insert, if possible, in next.

FREDERIC ALLEMAUD, Eden P. O.

Bayham, Oct. 9th, 1876.

[In reply to Mr. A., we regret we cannot give him the information or the quantity of dynamite used in the removal of stumps, or its cost. The experiments referred to in our last number were made in Scotland. Its value for removing stumps is denied by some, though as strongly asserted by others; among the latter is the *Scientific American*. We would wish much to see the experiment tried here, as experiments alone can decide the disputed question. A trial might at first be made on a small scale. If what is claimed for it be true, it will be extremely beneficial to farmers owning partially cleared farms.—Ed.]

SIR,—
the free
(Algonia)
great ch
left last
laid on t
Fort W
through
engines
rails, an
Fort to
miles, an
to Princ
secure th
round ho
office, ar
tion, and
progress
the expe
of count
lessened
conventi
convenie
is payin
usually f
has to b
the freig
and as
railroad
be som
years y
building
Fort C
farming
profitab
ject for
ers to s
The fa
good la
ing g
way nea
a good
ket,
there is
and
road l
into the
All kin
produc
well he
it is a f
tent th
land w
duces
of ti
hay t
acre, a
bushels
atoes
acre
several
been p
ed. T
mate is
and a
last d
Sept. t
sowed
are in
and the
tops ar
green.
within
ing go
neighb
good m
man o
to sett
and bu
I have
survey
are all
will be
ham, I
person
dress.

SIR,
tell m
or not
Bingh
He cla
that m
do we
bushel
pound
crop i
you t