

ing, also, how ceaselessly the various phases of the weather sweep over the natural regions of the peach, five or six long months of steady growth are required to produce the peach under the most favorable circumstances. How, then, can we imagine that in three or four months the same end is to be obtained by unnatural means? No, never! We may assist nature; she repels compulsion. It cannot be too much reflected upon by every practical gardener when he is advised to apply the climate of the tropics to the plants of the north; and that the principles herein applied, if rightly understood, will tell him why his grapes, peaches, apricots, plums and cherries *do not set*.

In conclusion, we have hitherto chiefly adverted to the fruit blossom, and in so doing the vital functions performed by the *leaf* must not be overlooked. The leaf is the *stomach* of the plant and performs the same functions for the vegetable that the stomach does for the animal kingdom. The full development of the leaf by moderate stimulus should always precede or be in advance of the full expansion of the fruit blossom; otherwise it would prove disastrous to the fruit or, perchance, no fruit at all. And hence without a clean, healthy and well developed foliage, assimilation is checked, the plant becomes sickly and stunted, and with blossom or fruit but mere abortions. Old Dame Nature is a fond foster-mother, and is peculiarly partial to her own children; and woe betide the practitioner that would lightly esteem her immutable laws. But, rather, the more closely he assimilates his operations to those laws, the greater and surer will be his success.

There are two primary conditions essential to complete success in the forcing of the peach. First, thoroughly well ripened wood; secondly, to have the young foliage sufficiently developed and in advance of the fruit blossom during the process of setting; otherwise the embryo fruit, for want of sustenance, is apt to drop prematurely. There are also two primary evils incident to the culture of the peach under glass, resulting from injudicious watering. First, by watering on and around the trunk of the tree with very cold water during