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 LETTERS

Last year I planted one-quarter pound seed and gathered seventy-eight pounds of clean peas; one single pea produced 627.—J. P. WILLIAMS, *Bloomfield*.

Direct Connection with English Fruit Merchants.

SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the last few issues of your interesting and valuable monthly journal, and shall be pleased to know your charge for a similar advertisement to the one we enclose, which is a cutting from the *London Horticultural Times*.

We notice in your issue for February an abridgment of a letter you have received from Messrs. John Seed & Son, of Hull, which we can endorse, and at the same time we would supplement their remarks by bringing before you and your readers the advisability of direct communications with the English inland markets. Our market has hitherto been supplied with Canadian and American apples from Liverpool and Hull, thereby, of course, adding expense to your importation before they reach us, which expense certainly might be placed in the pockets of Canadian and American growers by direct shipments. Doubtless your readers have already got their eyes open to the fact that it is desirable that the grower and consumer should be brought as near together as possible, so as to avert all middlemen expenses which are not absolutely necessary.

We recognize the fact that it is now too late to ask your subscribers to make us any direct shipments this season, as it is too far advanced, but we hope to bring our name before them in your valuable paper before another season comes round. Awaiting your reply.—BUCKOLL, KING & CO., *Nottingham, Eng.*, March 4, 1888.

Liverpool Apple Market.

SIR,—Your interesting publication for February has been duly received and read with great pleasure. Since our last, SS. "Sarnia" has arrived, and the cargo she brings is, on the whole, exceptionally good, which has assisted materially in sustaining prices: poor stock, however, can only be realized at a considerable discount. We quote: Baldwins, 7s. 9d to 15s.; Russets, 11s. 9d. to 27s. 6d.; Spies, 11s. to 17s. 3d.; Various, 8s. 9d. to 15s. 9d. There is only a medium demand, and heavy shipments would completely demoralize the market. Awaiting your further favors.—WILLIAMS, THOMAS & CO., *Liverpool, Eng.*

Fruit Prospects in and Around Berlin for Coming Season.

SIR,—As might naturally be expected, the apple crop will be light; indications show a

scarcity of blossomed buds. Last season's crop being in excess, a reaction is necessary in order to restore vitality to the trees. Pear trees make a better exhibit, and a fair yield of fruit may be anticipated. I have never seen a better show for plums; the trees are fairly crowded with blossom buds. Last season the plum crop was a failure, but this season is likely to make up for the deficiency. Small fruits look well. Strawberry plants, raspberry canes and grape vines have all passed through the winter apparently without damage.

The past winter has been exceptional. The lowest point reached was only 15° below zero, and that only on two occasions, whilst during the previous season it reached 30° below zero, which was fatal to many vines and canes not protected.—SIMON ROY, *Berlin*.

The Champion Grape.

SIR,—In 1887 my Champion grape vine took a rest by coming out in leaf first June, and bearing a very light crop. This year it has regained its ascendancy by ripening more than 150 pounds of grapes.—FRANCIS COLEMAN, *Hamilton*.

Encouraging.

SIR,—It is with much pleasure that I again send you my annual subscription for THE HORTICULTURIST, which I hope may increase in circulation, as well as it has in usefulness, for it is an honor to our Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to have such a journal, giving the fruit growers an opportunity to communicate their experience in different subjects enlightening one another in a very friendly manner, and also encouraging every attempt at fruit raising and home adornment. The latter is needed badly enough in some parts of Ontario, for in some places you will find nothing but a few fruit trees, and some currant and gooseberry bushes struggling for an existence amongst grass and weeds, with no attempt at making home attractive by the addition of a few evergreens or ornamental shrubs. Men who are very well off and have fine houses, are as slow, and some of them are slower, than they of moderate means are in making beautiful. A few dollars well spent each year, will soon change the appearance of most farms, and will add much to its value. If our farmers generally could be induced to pay more attention to small fruits, and even a good vegetable garden, it would help to lessen the doctor's bill in many a house, and I think that for all the extra time that it takes to keep a small garden in order, that the time so spent pays better than buying your supply from the fruit dealer.—J. M. WATERS, *Maple Grove, Fernhill, Ont.*