

Red, white and violet flowers, like roses, petunias, etc., are said to be very sensitive to the effects of powdered charcoal applied about their roots, growing and blooming much better. The same authority states that yellow flowers are insensible to its effects, apparently.

A Lake Superior letter states that it is the opinion of many practical men who have examined the subject, that, owing to their peculiar situation and the influence of the lake, which remains open in winter, the Apostle Islands are as well adapted to the culture of the grape as the Islands of Lake Erie.

The *Small Fruit Culturist* says that if you want to prevent currants and gooseberries suckering and desire to grow them in tree form, with a single stalk, take cuttings about eight inches long in the Spring, and cut out all the buds but the two on the top, plant about two-thirds their length in good ground, pressing the earth firmly to their entire length; few will fail to grow.

T. G. Yeoman, of Walworth, N. Y., has invented a plan for loosening the vines on the common grape trellis. Everyone who has constructed grape trellises with long horizontal wires is aware that heat expands iron and cold contracts it, and that consequently in winter there is danger of the wires breaking if they are drawn tight in summer, and not loosened at the approach of winter.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* says:—Hoe over or otherwise loosen the caked surfaces upon all ranunculus, tulip, and anemone beds, &c. In a general way it will be necessary, in all instances where neatness is aimed at, to hoe and rake over the surface of herbaceous borders, or others of a permanent character, which have already been dug, as they have become somewhat hard and require such attention.

A correspondent of *Hearth and Home* protects his melon and cucumber vines from bugs "with uniform success" by this prescription:—"Take sticks four inches long and one half inch in diameter—pine is best. Wrap one inch of one end in a piece of cotton or linen. Dip this in turpentine, and stick one or two in each hill, leaving only the wrapped part above ground. The odor of the turpentine does the business."

**THE BIRDS.**—Baron Von Tschudi, the eminent Swiss naturalist, says that without birds successful agriculture is impossible. He classes swallows, wrens, robins and sparrows as among the most useful of these insect-destroyers. He placed a tit-mouse on some rose-bushes, and in a few hours it rid them of innumerable lice. A robin killed eight hundred flies in an hour. A pair of night swallows in fifteen minutes destroyed an immense swarm of gnats. He has seen a pair of wrens fly thirty-six times in an hour to their nests with insects in their bills. A pair of sparrows carry three hundred worms a day to their family. He avers that the generality of small birds carry nothing to their young ones but insects, worms, snails, spiders, etc. Down with the wren and robin killers!

A writer in *Chamber's Journal* says that fruits should be eaten alive like oysters. There is an edge to the taste of a fresh-opened oyster which a short exposure to the air takes away. While a plum hangs upon its stalk, it is in some kind of magnetic correspondence with all the powers of nature. Cut it off, and in time it dies corrupt and unwholesome; and every moment of its progress from life to death, is marked by a decadence of that essence which makes fruit delicious.

**ASHES FOR FRUIT TREES.**—We observe a statement in one of the papers of an experiment in the application of wood ashes to fruit trees, which shows in a curious manner how a thing may be done in the wrong way. Hollow cylinders of tin were placed around the foot of the trunks, and the space between these and the bark filled in with fresh wood ashes. The trees so treated, especially the peach and smaller apple trees, omitted to grow, and on removing the tin and ashes, the black and slippery bark came off from the stems. The ashes were put in the wrong place—they should have been spread broadcast where the roots could absorb the dissolved potash as it slowly descended through the soil. To crowd it in a mass around the trunk, is like cramming pudding into a hungry man's boots or pouring medicine into his ears.—*Country Gentleman*.

## Our Country.

### MORE WORDS TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The soil of the Province of Ontario is, as a whole, not to be surpassed in fertility by any part of the world; indeed, it is its very fertility that has been its worst enemy inducing neglect of good and scientific farming, and it is the want of good and scientific farming to which is to be attributed the exodus which is always taking place throughout America from front to back settlements.

The course of a settler on new land is first to remove the forest, then to sow wheat among the stumps; clover and grass follow (or should follow) the wheat, and the land then remains untilled until the roots of the former trees are sufficiently rotted and decayed to admit of ploughing—such ploughing as the land gets for many years would, however, absolutely horrify the neat-handed old country farmer. The settler has to plough round stumps, and across from stump to stump, in and out, backwards and forwards, until he gets the soil moved somehow or other. It is then dragged, and wheat again sown. Then follows, without rule or science, just such kind of cultivation as it is believed will produce the best immediate returns, without a thought for the future. Grain follows grain as long as it will grow, and produce even half a crop. Then the land is sown to clover, and it is allowed to lie over and recu-