

THE CATALPA.

I am afraid the "Catalpa" will not be found hardy enough for many parts of this Province. I have had one here (Cobourg) for twelve years, it grew to be five or six inches in diameter, forming a handsome tree, but the young shoots were often winter killed, and the beautiful blossoms did not even attempt to form any seed pods, as if they were only pistillates. Two years ago more than half of the top died and had to be cut off. A friend, who saw it in this mutilated condition last summer, told me of one he had in his grounds near Chicago, Ill., one twice as large as mine, that had been killed last winter.

My "Ailanthus" is also too tender for this climate, growing too fast to ripen the new shoots, which are thus killed by the frost. It never blossoms either. It has had leaves, the mid rib of which measured fifty-four inches.

Cobourg, Ont.

X.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—Your tree was not the *Catalpa speciosa*, which is more hardy than *C. bignonioides*.

JAPAN QUINCE.

MR. EDITOR,—As it appears to me no one ever answers any questions put in the *Horticulturist* not replied to by yourself, allow me to answer: 1st to "A Subscriber." The Japan Quince is nearly hardy at Ottawa. I have seen it both in flower and fruit. It is one of our handsomest shrubs and should be more commonly cultivated. It would be a nice thing to send out for test by the "F. G. Ass." As a hedge plant, I do not see what object would be gained by planting it, as it only grows two or three feet high. As a single plant it is very beautiful; its habit is rather spreading than upright.

PLUM TREES IN HEN YARDS.

No. 2. Plum trees grown in hen yards are usually very productive; the hen manure highly enriches the soil. The birds will not allow any sod to grow in their yards, so that the roots of the trees are not dried up by the absorption of the grass roots, besides which, the hens are a terror to any curculio which come in their way. Birds should be kept which do not fly, such as Dark and Light Bramahs, Plymouth Rocks, &c.

NANNIBERRY.

3rd. The common name for the shrub spoken of by Mr. Cotter, Barrie, is the Nanniberry. I think it is one of the *Viburnum* family. After frost, the berries which hang in bunches, are sweet, juicy, and pleasant. I fancy it could be much improved by cultivation. If Mr. Cotter will furnish me with some of the flowers in spring, I will be glad to give him the botanical name.

PLUMS FOR ALGOMA.

4th. I would strongly advise Mr. D. Dunn, of St. Joseph's Island, Algoma, to procure Pond's Seedling plum, and the Glass Seedling, especially the former; it is the hardiest cultivated plum we have and is of large size, red, turning to purple on one side when fully ripe. Unfortunately, it is rather a shy bearer.

PARIS GREEN ON CABBAGE.

5th. The application of Paris Green to cabbage and cauliflower for the destruction of the larva of the *Pieris rapae* is, to say the least of it, a highly dangerous experiment. A gentleman of this city was very badly poisoned by eating vegetables on which it had been used, perhaps incautiously; he did not recover his health for months afterwards. The use of such active poisons as Paris Green should not be recommended, or used, on any plant of which anything but the root is eaten.

P. E. BUCKE.