

* Open Letters. *

Brown Rot.

SIR,—I am sorry to find that the "rot" (brown rot we call it) is making serious inroads in the vineyards here. So far the vines of black loam overlying sand are most seriously affected, but I notice a little of it on our best situations. A few days more will determine what course the disease will take.

A. M. NEILL, *Windsor.*

Black Currants.

SIR,—I noticed in the *HORTICULTURIST* for last July a short article on "Black Currants," with a cut of some very fine ones, although I doubt very much if they are any better than a Saunder's seedling sent out by you two or three years ago. The bush is still rather small, but I picked three pints of large fruit last month. It was the first to ripen, fruit all ripe together, no second picking, and the bunches long and full of fruit. The seedling sent out the year before, although it had a fair amount of fruit, it was all scattered, and had to be gathered one at a time. Last year, although I had taken good care of the bushes, I had little fruit, when all around me they were bearing fairly well, and I wrote to you about them, and you kindly gave me some hints. This year I had a large crop, some bushes going over two qts. a piece, and my

neighbors had next to none, and bought from me. I am coming more and more to the conclusion that in this north country that the late frosts do the trouble. I send you these particulars, as I thought you might be interested in them. I had 100 qts., which sold readily at 12½c. per qt., against imported fruit.

A. J. COLLINS, *Listowel.*

Reports Should be Reliable.

SIR,—Allow me to offer a suggestion as an admirer of your valuable publication.

It is desirable that you should have competent correspondents to report to you on the various topics throughout the Province so that reports can be relied upon as substantially correct. I notice in your issue for July a report from Ottawa.

I presume your correspondent gauges his opinion by the crop in his sheltered cottage garden in the city, but it is quite incorrect as regards the general crop of plums in the Ottawa Valley, they are generally a failure from blight. About strawberries, he says, the weather was cold after blooming time and the crop was poor. He must have Klondyke on the brain, there was no cold weather in the Ottawa Valley in June.

This is not the first erroneous statement I have noticed from the correspondent and in a journal like the *HORTICULTURIST* it is misleading.

J. HENDERSON,
Stittsville.

THE APPLE CROP.

The following information regarding the apple crop in England is given us by Messrs. Woodall & Co., of Liverpool, a firm of good standing in Great Britain. The figures represent the number of reports received, and the comparison for the past three years is as follows:

This year	42	over av.	150	av.	139	under av.
Last year	10	"	74	"	230	"
1896	75	"	152	"	165	"

You will notice above figures indicate a larger crop than last year, but smaller than two years ago.

NEW ENGLAND STATES.—Of these New Hampshire and Massachusetts have the best crops, generally estimated at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of 1896. Maine is light for an apple year, probably not over 25 % of two years ago.

NEW YORK STATE.—Taken as a whole, the Hudson River and Western N. Y. are reported light and scattering, and a very light

crop for that State, perhaps a little in advance of last year; and after supplying its own demand with a surplus for Western trade, it looks as though there would not be a great quantity for export.

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES.—Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas, and Virginia, which were heavy last year, are reported to have no show for a crop, and generally may be called a failure. Michigan, however, has quite a crop in some sections, but in others quite a failure.

NOVA SCOTIA was reported to have a good crop, but latest reports are conflicting.

ONTARIO.—East of Toronto winter fruit is generally scarce and scattering, and inclined to be spotted. North and West there is a better showing, and in some sections plenty of fruit; however clean stock is by no means too plentiful.