

## Raising Cabbages and Tomatoes.

THE whole family of the brassica is capable of great development. See what splendid varieties of the cabbage and turnip have been brought into use by careful cultivation, to say nothing of the cauliflower, the most delicious of them all. Perhaps some, who, like myself, practice gardening on a small scale, would like to know how to cultivate this esculent. For twenty-five years I have failed but once to raise a supply for my family. There are two methods I have practiced for starting them, one to plant them in a hill, and the other to start them in a rich spot, or in a hot-bed, and then transplant. Each method has its advantages. When I transplant, which I am as likely to do on a summer day as on any other, I pour a little water round the plant and immediately lay over it a leaf of burdock, rhubarb or grape, and let it wilt down over the plant and remain there two or three days. I then remove them, hoe, and place a platform of newspaper around the plant, which may be readily done by tearing up pieces eight inches square, tearing a slit in one side to the centre and placing a little earth on the edges. This will keep off the cutworms. If a plant turns to a lead colour, pull it up and supply its place with another. In this way I never fail of cabbages, if I don't let the crows get in and eat them up!

To train the tomato, knock a flour barrel to pieces, take one of the hoops and two of the staves, sharpen one end of them, and nail the other end to the opposite sides of the hoops, set it over the plant and drive it into the ground. The vines will hang over the edge of the hoop, free from the ground. Set the staves in the next hill at right angles with those in the first, and let the hoops just come together and tie them with a string in such a way as to support each other. Thus, at a trifling expense of time and money, you may effectually train all your tomatoes. These may be little matters, but they will insure great cabbages and tomatoes.—N. T. T.—*New England Farmer*.

## On Planting and Pruning.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—There has been a good deal said on planting and pruning fruit trees, in THE CANADA FARMER, and I think some quite wide of the mark. I will give you my views, from several years experience in a small way: 1st, I object to deep planting; I see no reason why a tree should be set deeper in transplanting—in fact the reverse—they should not be set as deep as when in the nursery. My plan is to set the tree not so deep (for it will naturally get deep enough,) by some three or four inches, as when in the nursery. I raise the earth around the tree, then use a little straw and manure with a little earth thrown over it. Then I take lime stone, about half a wheelbarrow full, and place on the ground for 2 or 3 feet around the tree. I have in this way moved trees in mid-summer and they have done first rate. I would not be afraid to warrant every tree (if in good order,) planted in this way; stone used in this way protects the trees against drought and the gases, &c. 2nd, I have no objection to close planting in the garden, providing you do not set them so close that they exclude the light and sun. If you do, you prevent the trees from spreading their branches, and they grow tall, spindling, and you cannot expect a good bearer or first-class fruit. 3rd, pruning should be done at the season the new growth is forming on the out side of the tree, just before it is formed into a woody substance. Use a little grafting wax, and the place will heal over and not injure the trees. Prune while the tree is small. 4th, Shortening in trees of vigorous growth in July, is beneficial in strengthening and fruiting.

McGillivray, May 3, 1864.

D. SIOFF.

THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION of Upper Canada holds its next regular meeting in the Agricultural Hall, Toronto, on Wednesday, the 20th day of July, 1864, and we hope there will be a large attendance of gentlemen who are desirous of promoting the raising of fruit in this Province. We are too much behind in this matter. There is surely no need of our paying an annual tax of upwards of a quarter of a million of dollars to our neighbours for fruit that we might as well grow ourselves.

## Entomology.

### An Entomological Ramble.

It is a curious fact that those living in the country, although they have greater opportunities than others of becoming familiar with the Insect inhabitants of the fields, are commonly found to be almost wholly ignorant of their beauties, their peculiarities, and their useful or injurious qualities. Always in the open air, they would, if they studied their own interests, seek to become acquainted with the living denizens of their farms, so as to discriminate between those which injure their crops and those which were not merely harmless, but of positive utility to the agriculturist. Much has of late years been done by the scientific entomologist to investigate and describe popularly those insects and their habits, which, in one or other of their conditions, are, or may be, injurious to the farmer, and in many cases valuable hints are given, with a view to aid him in keeping such pests somewhat in check. I need only refer to the magnificent work on "Farm Insects of England," by John Curtis; and, on this continent, to the admirable work on "Insects Injurious to Vegetation," by Dr. F. W. Harris. To the Canadian this work is particularly valuable, as it refers more especially to the habits of the insect pests of this country. Without at present entering more at large on these matters, I proceed to give a short account of the doings of the members of the Entomological Society of Canada during an excursion made on the 15th of last month to what are known in Toronto as the Humber Plains, or, rather, that portion of them near the Humber Bay, some three or four miles from Toronto. Agreeably to previous arrangement, the members assembled at 9:30, A.M., at the western terminus of the Street Railway, wisely reserving their walking energies for the legitimate objects of the day. While waiting for some of the party, those first on the ground examined the damp margins of a half dried-up pond hard by, and were rewarded by a large number of beetles, chiefly belonging to the family *Bembidiidae*, which, though embracing insects of small size, yet exhibits some of singular beauty in the markings of the wing-cases, or *elytra*, as they are entomologically named. Proceeding westward, the tediousness of the dusty road was beguiled by sundry sallies of entomological wit and fun, which speedily brought the walkers to a partially cleared wood, on the lake side of the road, which, being of a promising appearance, invited a visit. But few insect rarities were, however, met with; some specimens of an oval brown beetle, one of the *Chrysomelidae*, unknown to any of those present, were shaken from a fir tree. From a similar locality, also, was obtained a singularly ornamented moth, belonging to the genus *Phlogophora*, but of what species was uncertain. The upper wings are beautifully variegated with rich, deep green, brown and yellow; while the under wings, as is usually the case, are of a palish, variegated brown. It measures about two inches across the wings. When at rest, the wings are folded so as to display the upper pair to great advantage. Later in the day a second specimen was procured from a Scotch fir by heating. Various other insects of (to the public) a less inviting appearance, were captured; and the addition of any new or rare species was hailed with pleasure by the less fortunate collectors, each hoping to be a successful captor in his own turn. Getting upon the track of the Great Western Railway, several captures were made; various species of tiger beetle, or *Cicindela*, were secured, sporting in the dry sand. Several butterflies also invited a selection from their numbers. One or two species of *Hesperia*, or skipper, so called from the dancing or skipping nature of its flight. Also, some small coppers and blues, so named from their respective colours. A fine specimen was taken, and several others seen, of that magnificent butterfly, the yellow swallow-tail, *Papilio Turnus*, measuring some four inches from tip to tip. It exhibits a wonderfully fine appearance when flying. The caterpillar feeds on the various varieties of plum tree. On examining some fungi, on dead wood, several specimens were taken of an oval beetle, *diaperis hydni*, prettily variegated with reddish-brown and black. It lives on and eats its way into the substance of the fungus. Leaving the railway, soon after it crosses the high road, we struck inland on the first road pointing

in that direction. Some specimens of a *Donacia*, a small bronzy beetle frequenting rushes, were taken; also several species of Dragon-flies, or *Libellulæ*, which were numerous near the railway. Higher up the road, and indeed also in the open parts of the bush, was taken the insect of the day, an extremely pretty and rare-looking butterfly, *Polyommatus porsenna*. This pretty insect measures about one inch and a quarter from tip to tip, and is of a bright brown, singularly streaked, spotted and edged with black, which gives it an unusual and very pretty appearance. Four specimens were captured by the writer in the same locality on the last Queen's birthday, the 24th of May. Some seven or eight specimens were taken by the various members, making about a dozen in all. As far as is known, only one specimen has previously occurred in Canada, and but two in the United States, showing that as far as our present knowledge extends, it has been an insect of extreme rarity hitherto. Had no other insects been captured by the excursionists, they would have considered themselves well rewarded by securing this rare butterfly. Many other insects of minor interest were obtained, and about two o'clock p.m. the company set out on their return to the city, well satisfied with the results of the day's collecting.

Were the enjoyment derivable from such trips, as I have imperfectly endeavoured to describe, more generally appreciated, we should have fewer young men wasting their time and health in "saloons," or other doubtful places of amusement; and in entering on such pursuits as entomology, they would improve the tone both of mind and body, find pleasing recreation, and be ready to say, as we did, on separating, "We part to meet again."

ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

## A Remedy for Bugs, Flies, Larvæ, &c., on Plants.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—M. M. Corno & Demeux, of Paris, manufacture a powder which is the most valuable disinfectant now known, and which is used in France and in England most extensively, not only for the various purposes of disinfection and for deodorizing, but also by surgeons for purifying foul ulcers and wounds, and thus removing their pain and promoting their rapid cure. This powder is prepared by intimately mixing from one to five parts of common coal tar with one hundred parts of plaster (gypsum or sulphate of lime), and is sold in Paris for about one shilling per hundred weight. If prepared here on a large scale, it might be sold for about the price per barrel of the plaster itself.

But I have not yet reached my point. From the known effects of coal tar upon all insect life, I feel assured that this powder, if scattered over any plant, or perhaps upon the soil, if the plant is not up, will prevent or destroy any insect that may feed upon the plant. The powder will not only not injure the plant, but will really act as a fertilizer, just as plaster alone would do. I beg some of your enterprising readers to try this upon turnips and other plants, and then report to you the results. And for gooseberry bushes and shrubs that are devastated by caterpillars and other larvæ, another form of the coal tar will doubtless prove very successful. I refer to the stirring up of a little coal tar in water, which solution is to be sprinkled or dashed upon the shrub; or the powder above mentioned may be thrown over the shrub while the dew is on the leaves. If any one of your readers will try this, and report favourably to you, we shall find manufacturers ready to supply the whole country with this powder abundantly, and at prices to ensure its extensive employment.

It may be asked why the writer of this does not give the result of his experience instead of advancing a theory. I answer, opportunity has not permitted him hitherto, but that he is about trying it largely. At the same time the writer thought it would be well if others made the same experiments simultaneously, and the results arrived at would be the more conclusive.

H. Y.

Kingston, July 2nd, 1864.

BAD NEWS FOR THE CATERPILLARS.—A French gardener has discovered a simple manner of ridding a garden of caterpillars. A piece of wollen stuff having been lodged in a tree by the wind, was found to have become covered with those insects. The man seeing the result, placed several others pieces on different trees; and the caterpillars settling on them in the night, he was able to destroy a great quantity every morning.