

THE SUMMER FROST.

SIR,—In my letter of Dec. 4th last year, I gave you in brief detail a statement of all the plants I had received from the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to date, and the results of my experience with them, and hoped to have been able to give you a correspondingly satisfactory account of the results of the past summer; but am sorry to have to report a very different state of affairs. The frost of the 28th of May last did a something amount of damage to the fruit crops of Ontario. Few, if any, localities escaped harmless, while to the Province generally the effect of it was most disastrous. Doubtless it was felt more severely in many places than in our favored Toronto; but, even here, in most cases, it was ruinous to orchards and gardens. I lost of my grapes four-fifths, strawberries two-thirds, raspberries three-fourths, apples two-thirds, all my plums—though I believe the curculio had something to do with this, and the portions I did save were inferior in quality and deficient in quantity. I had good yields of gooseberries, currants—red, white and especially black. Of these the quality was exceptionally fine; also blackberries.

In Canada, early springs are inevitably injurious to most of the products of the soil, and I sincerely hope it will be long before we have another spring like that of the present year.—Believe me, yours very truly, J. L. THOMPSON, *Toronto*.

GOOSEBERRY MILDEW—JOHN HOPPER ROSE.

SIR,—I notice complaints about mildew on gooseberries. I have "Downing" and "Crown Bob," and have never seen a speck of mildew during the last ten years. I always plant them where they can get plenty of sun and air, and never apply any manure except the house ashes from hard wood.

I have had "John Hopper" rose for several years. It is a splendid rose and flowers all the summer. I first saw it on a garden wall in Scotland.

Wishing you the compliments of the merry season, I am, yours faithfully, A. D. FERRIER, *Fergus, Ont.*

THE SWITZER APPLE.

SIR,—The Switzer apple that I received has had fruit on it two years. The fruit is very good and a good size. It has the flavor of a peach when ripe. If it is let remain on, it changes its flavor. It is as hardy as the Duchess, and ripens the same time. It does well on clay and is one of the best summer

apples, and a strong grower.—S. GREENFIELD, *Archville, Nepean, Carlton Co.*

THE GOOSEBERRY MILDEW.

SIR,—I am deeply interested in the gooseberry discussion. Will not the fact that the wild gooseberry mildews here, even worse than the cultivated varieties, and worst in the bush, give some light on the cause of the disease—and this was unknown only a few years ago. I have no doubt, therefore, that heat and dampness does aggravate the disease, but doesn't seem to cause it. Industry with me, not only have the fruit destroyed, but the bushes are killed. Shall remove what are left in the spring to a high clay ridge.—S. SPILLETT, *Nantye*.

A FEW LINES FROM MR. GARFIELD.

SIR,—It was with sincere regret that I found it necessary to take so sudden a leave from your meeting at Windsor. I was greatly interested in your discussion, and it would have given me great pleasure to have remained until the close of the convention; but this is a busy world, and I am one of the busy people in it. Yesterday our local Horticultural Society met at my house, and, although a rainy day, filled us up to our utmost capacity. We have fifty-one families represented in the organization, and the families attend. One of the most delightful talks yesterday was given by a lady in encouragement of children's horticulture. She explained how seeds, plants and bulbs will increase from the smallest beginning, and illustrated by a case in hand. She took a single bulb of a popular variety of *Gladiolus* and in the five years, closing with this year, her stock had grown to 5,000 salable bulbs, and 45,000 bulblets. I hope we can, by agitation and example, awaken a thorough interest in this subject. I thank you and your associates most heartily for the cordial reception you gave us Michigan brethren, and trust we may, in the near future, be enabled to reciprocate.—CHAS. W. GARFIELD.

WINE THAT DOES NOT INTOXICATE.

SIR,—As a director of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, inquiries have been made of me as to whether there is manufactured and kept in stock by any grape grower in Ontario, a purely unfermented wine, suitable for sacramental purposes. Knowing that Mr. P. E. Bucke, of Ottawa, has had some experience with purely unfermented native wines, we would be pleased to hear from him through the columns of the *HORTICULTURIST* on the subject.—DIRECTOR, *London, Dec. 13.*