

* Open Letters. *

Humboldt Blackberries.

SIR,—These are a new and distinct sort of blackberries; they grow in a trailing, prostrate form, and should be trained on trellises; the fruit is very large, good specimens being $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and nearly an inch thick, and of a beautiful, jet black color; their flavor, however, is what charms everybody, being entirely different from that of any other variety of blackberry known, or in fact any other berry; their fascinating, spicy flavor, makes them of unrivalled value, for pies, jams, jellies, etc. They are the earliest blackberries known, ripening about a month before the Early Harvest blackberry. They are very hardy, and will endure almost any climate. They are marvellous yielders, and give heavy crops the next season after being set out. As a money maker, it stands high, as all its crop of fruit is ripened before the Early Harvest and other common blackberries commence to ripen; and it is these early berries that command the highest prices in market.

S. L. WATKINS, *Grisley Flats, Cal.*

Trees Worth Planting.

SIR,—In choosing trees for planting for either timber or shade, the aim should be to have what will make the largest growth of wood in the shortest possible time. In planting for timber, the quality of the wood is the chief consideration. In planting for shade, beauty, symmetrical figure and cleanliness are to be regarded; but when one tree possesses all these qualities, it may be good either for timber or shade.

It is always best to plant for shade reliable free-growing varieties, which are sure to make a growth, and remain healthy, even though they are not as handsome as some of the other kinds, which may do well in other localities.

For timber or for shade, the wild cherry might be put to a good use. It may be trained into almost any desired shape, and its dark green pear-like foliage gives it a very ornamental appearance.

The American mulberry is a very handsome tree, and one or more specimens should be in every collection. Its rapid growth and the beauty of its foliage ought to make it a favorite, aside from the value of its fruit, which is excellent for dessert and canning purposes. Magnolias are very popular, and some will have them if they have to search the swamps, or pay a high price to get them. Unlike the ill-shaped specimens in the swamps, the magnolia properly cultivated may be made to grow symmetrical, and become a 'thing of beauty,' for its large bright leaves are always fresh, and the seed-pods colored red and brown, are an ornament to the tree.

A. H. CAMERON, *Tiverton, Ont.*

Superiority of Canadian Apples.

SIR,—To-day I purchased some *fair, handsome* Early Jose apples at one cent each, from the South. They measured one and three-quarter inches in diameter the longest way. They were *free from defects*, color dull crimson, skin *very* thick, flat sub-acid flavor, flesh soft, but they *were not over-ripe*. In my garden at Oshawa, the Early Jose was thin-skinned; cheek in the sun bright deep crimson, flesh *bitter*, brisk sub-acid flavor, which was appetizing and refreshing. Now this is a fair statement as to all summer apples from the South, as compared with Canadian apples. The clear dry air of Ontario gives the fine brilliant color, which makes apples *attractive*, and when in addition they are refreshing and appetizing, they create their own market when they are known. To make them known, send them to market and advertise them, and from that time they will advertise themselves. God made the conditions which makes Canadian apples (Ontario and Quebec) superior to others. Man cannot make them or change them, therefore you cannot over-stock this market with prime fruit, well and carefully packed in small packages. Long before trees now planted come into bearing, your farmers will have free access to this market.

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FRANCIS WAYLAND GLEN, *New York.*