

ficial perpetuation of the original for but a very limited time, say about half that period. The scions, whether taken from the original or from a grafted tree, it makes no difference in so far as general longevity is concerned, they being only sections of the original, nature not permitting any further extension of life.

In Europe the apple tree from seed will live much longer, soil and climate, particularly the latter, being different; hence the reason why the period of raising grafted trees is more lengthened.

In connection with the apple I may refer you to the peach. All your old and esteemed varieties are succumbing to the same influences, and are dying off with the yellows.

I observe that quite a number of our hitherto abundant bearing apple trees, even although apparently healthy and in prime of life, are beginning to show a scarcity of fruit in comparison to blossoms, such as Pomme Grise, Ribston Pippin, Gravenstein, &c., which are as yet exempt from spotting, nevertheless they are old varieties in cultivation and have become enfeebled.

The varieties alluded to should be planted with caution, and limited in number, because in the ordinary course of nature they will soon become extinct. The production of new varieties should by all means be encouraged, not trusting altogether to natural fertilization.

A great deal can be done now in this more enlightened age by artificial means, and thus produce apples of a superior character to those which are showing evidences of extinction.

The success that has been attained in the strawberry by artificial fertilization is really wonderful, and that, too, within the last decade, a thing unprecedented in the era of strawberry culture.

In corroboration of what I have stated about the apple, may very well

be illustrated by the potato, the period for its artificial perpetuation by section of tubers only extends to some ten years—the period that nature has assigned it. After a few years of productiveness it ceases to be so, becomes scabby (a fungus growth), and finally the rot, another variety of fungus, and then the variety becomes extinct, consequently, as a matter of necessity, it becomes imperative to keep up a continuous supply direct from seeds.

Yours truly,

SIMON ROY.

#### SAUNDERS HYBRID RASPBERRY.

Mr. Saunders' Black Cap No. 53, distributed in 1880 by the Society, is a treasure to us; the fruit is rather small, and of a dull purple color, but so very productive, we can gather three pints from this one plant, enough to make a pudding, two or three times each season, besides stray pickings as the children pass by. I find it throws up suckers occasionally like the red raspberry, and I have thus secured six extra plants. The canes are so strong they seem to have no chance to bend sufficiently to reach the ground and grow from the tips as usual. It is quite hardy and has no thorns.

X.

Cobourg, Ont.

#### GOOSEBERRIES.

Some six years ago I purchased three Crownbob and three Downing Gooseberries, and they have thriven very well, and not a speck of mildew. From long experience I may state that the only manure I apply to Gooseberries is good clean house ashes from wood, and I think that keeps off mildew. I first got a hint of that from the old *Am. Agriculturist*, and I had very good red Gooseberries. British, and they didn't mildew either.

A. D. FERRIER.

Fergus, Wellington County.