

The Captain is a rather extensive grower of Swedish turnips, which he feeds liberally to his stock, with much advantage.

About a fortnight since, I visited Paris for a few days, and lectured before the Mechanics' Institute of that town, to a large and most respectable audience, on the relations of science to practical agriculture. The bad state of the roads prevented many farmers at a distance from attending. I was glad to meet here, as I had on a previous occasion at Aurora, several clergymen of different denominations, who were evidently desirous of promoting the welfare of their valuable institutions. I enjoyed the hospitality of David Buchan and Henry Mogh, Esqrs., and the Messrs. Allchin kindly conducted me to see the characteristic features and improvements of the place. Since my former visit to Paris, some half a dozen years since, great changes and improvements have been effected; and few places, probably, are destined to reap so fully the advantages conferred by railways. Paris has unrivalled water power; what with the Grand River, and its tributaries, now so extensively improved by art, it is surely and steadily progressing in manufactures and commerce. Speculative excitement appears not to have attained to that hazardous note of intensity here as in some other places; a more healthy and enduring, if somewhat slower prosperity, has in consequence obtained. Surrounded by so pleasant and superior agricultural country, and with such great natural advantages, Paris holds out many great and substantial advantages, which can be procured on moderate terms by the mechanic, manufacturer, or trader.

From observations during the journeys which I contemplate making during the approaching summer, I shall be happy to cull such facts and information as will be generally interesting and useful to the readers of this Journal. In conclusion, I may add that from all I have seen and heard, the wheat plant is secure. Notwithstanding that spring operations are necessarily late, the prospect of an abundant year must, on the whole, be considered as encouraging.

GEORGE BUCKLAND.

Board of Agriculture, Toronto, April, 1856.

PRUNING AND CULTURE OF CURRANTS.—No fruit pays better for good culture than the currant, yet none is more generally neglected. As there is likely to be a scarcity of summer fruits this year, owing to the destruction of peach and cherry buds, &c., all who have currant bushes should bestow upon them special attention so as to increase their fruitfulness. Old and neglected bushes should have some of the old branches cut away, so as to give the young shoot a chance to fill their places, and these should be thinned out, if numerous, and shortened if long, so as not to crowd each other. But especially dig out the grass, if any, about the roots, and apply a good dressing of manure and ashes, spading it in; and when the hot weather commences, cover the entire surface under the bushes with tan bark, saw dust, old leaves from the woods, or chip dirt from an old wood pile; this will prevent the growth of weeds, and keep the ground moist, greatly promoting the quantity and quality of the fruit.—Gooseberry bushes should be treated in a similar way, only more attention should be given to pruning, so as to keep the bushes open and the leaves and fruit fully exposed to the air—cutting away half of the last year's shoots, and shortening the rest one half.—Cuttings of gooseberry and currant bushes should be taken off as early as possible, selecting the shoots of the last season's growth, and shortening the tops, say to 8 or 10 inches in length. They may be placed in the cellar, with the butts in the earth or sand, until the ground is fit for planting, then set them in warm sandy soil, about two-thirds of their length in the ground.