

## OPEN LETTERS.

## First Canadian Grapes.

SIR.—I have this day shipped to Toronto two baskets of grapes, and I think they are the earliest in Ontario; some of them were ripe on the 21st, but not enough to ship. They are the Worden, and I have the Jessica, Niagara, and Concord, growing under similar conditions, but they are not nearly ripe. They were grown on the face of a hill looking south. Please publish in the HORTICULTURIST, and let us hear from other growers about their early shipments. —JOSEPH BOURNE, *Niagara Falls South, August 25th, 1888.*

## Apple Crop Prospects.

SIR.—I am obliged to you for your "Journals" which appear very interesting. The object of the present is to acquaint you that I have carefully examined the various reports I have received respecting the "Apple Crop" prospects in the European Centres and to inform you as concisely as possible the results for your guidance and those of your friends:—

*Germany* will have almost no apples for export. *Belgium*, though reported a shade better will be in very short supply. *Holland* has a very inferior crop, and as regards *England* such an utter failure is not known to have happened before. The result will be that we shall require to draw our supplies from America and Canada much earlier than usual and I am prepared to see a large and remunerative season's business. —J. B. THOMAS, *Bleund.*

## A Letter from Middlesex Co.

*The Fruit Crop, Seedling Gooseberries, The Dewberry, Freak of a Rose.*

SIR.—This has been a rather remarkable season with us in this part of Middlesex Co., for we have had very few real heavy showers of rain since the snow went away, but taking it on the whole, there will be a very good crop of most things except fall apples, of which there will be very few shipped this year; small fruits also were a shorter crop than usual.

I do not like the dewberry as well as the blackberry, for it is much harder to attend to and cultivate. I have been testing some gooseberries this year. The industry midewed the most; then Crown Bob a little, while Whitesmith was as free from it as the Houten Seedling. Some seedlings of it that I have grown now for some time are doing real well. I had two black currant seedlings fruit for the first time this year, and although the season was extremely dry, they were splendid and promise well. One of my roses played a strange prank in the way of flowering. It was a White Perpetual Moss, and always gave pure white flowers until this season, when it sent up a fresh sprout from the root upon which grew both white and bright rose and light pink

flowers at the same time, and some flowers were one half rose coloured and the other half pure white. Have you ever heard of such a freak of nature? I have had some seedling roses bloom this season for the first time, among which was a White Scotch, perfectly double and a very early bloomer. I have some more that I expect will bloom next summer. I planted some of Bliss's Hybridized Potato seed this spring, and now some of the young plants are in bloom and have large potatoes under them already. —J. M. W., *Maple Grove, August 15th, 1888.*

[Perhaps the Moss Rose had been budded on other stock, from which the fresh shoot sprung.—Ed.]

## U. S. Apple Crop Prospect for the Fall and Winter of 1888.

APPLES in the Middle and the Eastern States will average only a light crop, especially Greenings, not over 65 per cent., excepting in lake counties of New York State, where *Baldwins* promise a very fine yield; but these generally go to New York city for exporting. Pa. and Conn. don't promise enough for home use.

In Ohio and Mich. and westward the crop is scattering; good in spots, but in many places very light, running one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) to two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) a full crop in some sections—probably averaging half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) a crop in the western apple States and of uncertain quality. Michigan promises very few Greenings. Pears and plums are a lighter crop than usual in the Atlantic States.

Our fruit market outlook is therefore favourable. —PANCOAST & GRIFFITHS, *Phila., Aug. 31st, 1888.*

## The European Apple Crop.

DEAR SIR,—I am in due receipt of your favour of the 4th inst. I have posted you my circular report.

There will be nothing to report to be of any practical use to the Canadian fruit growers this month; our season is always later than the other shipping ports in this country:—

(1) Because we are in the midst of the best apple growing districts.

(2) Our wants are well looked after by our continental neighbours, who are pouring in their product as it ripens, but which this season will not last so long as in the past, owing to the shortness of the crop, as well as the failure of it in some parts; hence we may look for a commencement of the Colonial fruit season about the middle of September, and only good eating or large cooking apples, but no common fruit, will do for early shipments; good King apples and Northern Spy will do in October and later.