

THE WESTERN JUNE BERRY.

SIR,—On page 378 of the December number of the HORTICULTURIST, Mr. A. C. Grant refers to the Western Juneberry, and the plate issued in your July number. The Western Juneberry is *Amelanchier alnifolia*, the Saskatoon of the North-West Indians. It is a far more valuable fruit than that of our eastern *Amelanchier Canadensis*, and has the very great advantage of ripening its enormous crop of berries all at the same time. *A. Canadensis* varies very much, not only in botanical points but in the quantity and quality of its fruit. But none can compare with the Saskatoon of the West, which was one of the most important ingredients of pemmican in the olden times.

The "Oregon grape" is one of the barberries of the division, sometimes called *Mahonia*. There are three of these which grow wild in the British Columbian mountains: *Berberis Aquifolium*, well known as a garden shrub in many parts of Canada and the Old World. It is a low growing shrub with pinnate thorny-edged evergreen leaves, and dense panicles of bright yellow flowers, which open early in spring, and are followed later in the year with clusters of purple berries, which resemble little grapes, and have given rise to the name "Oregon grape." This name, however, is not confined to this species, but is perhaps rather oftener applied to *Berberis nervosa*, a species with much shorter stems and longer leaves, duller in appearance, but no less beautiful. The berries are abundantly produced, and being covered with a bluish-white bloom, form very attractive objects in the mountain woods. *Berberis repens* resembles *B. Aquifolium* very closely, but is smaller in all its parts, and should perhaps only be regarded as a variety of *B. Aquifolium*.

Ottawa, Ont.

JAMES FLETCHER.

A FAMEUSE SEEDLING.

SIR,—I send you a sample of a chance seedling of the Fameuse, which I have named Compton Climax. It is a good keeper, and, as you will see, very crisp, tender and juicy. The tree is a free grower and an abundant bearer. I have five acres of young trees coming into bearing, among which are the new Russians, Nos. 277, 413, 290, 230, 245, 185 and 161, and Wealthy, Wallbridge, Fameuse, Alexander, Bottle Greening and Talman Sweet, which are making a rapid growth, but, for a market apple, I believe this new variety is going to compare favorably with any of the others.

JOHN CARR, Compton Station, Que.

This apple is of excellent quality for dessert purposes, almost undistinguishable from the Fameuse in flesh, except perhaps that its texture is less firm, and it appears to be a little earlier in maturity. In size and color the apple also resembles the Fameuse, but is not quite so productive. If, however, it proves to be free of spot, it might be a very desirable variety for dessert purposes during the month of November.