

and taking out all superfluous branches and shoots *while they are small.*" How different from the general practice of the *majority* of farmers who frequently neglect to prune until the trees are crowded with branches of several years growth; when they appear to wake up to the fact that their trees require pruning, and an almost indiscriminate slaughter of *nearly half the branches* on the tree is the result, thus causing a severe constitutional shock to the tree, which eventually must very materially impair its vigor and shorten its life. I have frequently wished when passing by one of those injudiciously pruned or mutilated orchards that I had the power to punish the offender under a law similar to that for the "Prevention of cruelty to Animals." I would not be understood to say that severe pruning is not sometimes absolutely necessary, especially in neglected or diseased and old trees, but that it should be prevented as much as possible by close attention to the young trees. And the close observation and study of the habits and dispositions (if I may so call it) of the different varieties of trees under his care, will give the cultivator a more intimate, practical acquaintance with his business than he can get in any other way. The time for pruning depends much upon the work to be done, but it is generally considered best to prune young trees in the early Spring after the Winter frosts are over and before the sap has fully ascended into the branches. If done earlier and before the hard frosts are over experience has taught us that the trees will be injured by frost, through the wounds, especially if they are large and numerous. If put off until after the sap is in full flow, there is a decided loss of vigor to the tree, not only in the sap removed by the branches, but in the almost invariable loss by bleeding. If large branches have to be removed, causing severe wounds it is considered best to take them off at Midsummer, as at that time it has been found the wood remains sound and heals over more readily than at any other. Yet this requires caution for it must be conceded that Summer pruning lessens the vigor of a tree, and it is only advisable to take off large limbs at that season, on the principle that "of two evils we choose the least," *i. e.*, it is better to check the growth of the tree than to run the risk of decay in the trunk.

Now to sum up the general or leading principles that will be found useful to remember while at work.