

## HOW TO DRY PEACHES.

Take those of the best quality, just as they are ripe enough to eat, halve them, remove the stones, and sprinkle over them, in the hollow from which the pit was taken, a little nice sugar; dry them in a brick oven after the bread, &c., is withdrawn.

They are far better than if dried in the sun, retaining their aroma and flavour, and besides are totally free from insects. Prepared in this way, from peaches fully ripe, they need no cooking, but are simply soaked in cold water. All the sugar they require (ranging of course with the variety) is added while drying. Peaches thus dried and prepared, are only inferior to the fresh fruit, of which they retain the flavour in a remarkable degree. If you prefer, take them not quite so ripe, and peel the fruit, but the flavour is not so good as when fully ripe, and is dissipated more in the process of drying.

## WONDERFUL GEOLOGICAL CALCULATION.

In a paper read by Sir Charles Lyell, before the Royal Society in London, on the coal fields of Nova Scotia, he entered into speculations respecting the solid matter contained in the carboniferous formation of that country. He believes that it was once a delta like that of the Mississippi, and that the formations were produced by river inundation drifts. The average thickness of the whole of the coal measures is three miles, and the area, including the fields of New Brunswick, &c., may comprise 36,000 square miles, or 108,000 cubic miles, but taking the half of this, it would be 54,000 cubic miles of solid matter. It would take more than two millions of years for the Mississippi River to convey to the Gulf of Mexico an equal amount of solid matter at the rate of 450,000 cubic feet per second, as calculated by Mr. Forshey.—This is a subject for deep reflection and examination by all Biblical geologists especially. Sir Charles Lyell found fossil reptilian remains, and a land-shell in the interior of a fossil tree in a Nova Scotia coal field.

## GRAFTING WAX.

We made some remarks last week, in relation to cutting and preserving scions. We will give this week, a recipe for making the best kind of *grafting cement*. Take three parts of the best quality of rosin; two parts of bees-wax; and one part of tallow; melt them thoroughly together, and pour the composition while hot into cold water, and then work it like shoemaker's wax, till it will spread as thin as paper, or draw out as fine as gossamer. Should the rosin precipitate when cooling in the water and remain in the wax in small lumps, it must be melted over and worked again. In such case care must be taken that no water remains in the vessel that the composition is melted in, as water will remain at the bottom, and when the cement becomes heated to a certain temperature, the operator will witness a rather unpleasant experiment upon the expansive power of steam.

In rather cold weather, a little more tallow than in the above proportion may be added, and the cement will work very well, and in very warm weather a little more rosin will harden the wax, without material injury to its good proper-

ties. But for all seasons and all kinds of weather, we have never found any kind of grafting wax, that worked as well as wax made according to the above proportions. In cold weather, we keep our wax in warm water, in order to have it work well,—and in very warm weather it is necessary to keep it in cold water. Care should be taken to procure pure bees-wax for making cement.—Much of the bees-wax that is purchased in the market is adulterated with tallow; such may be detected, by placing it in a temperature that will melt the tallow and not the wax.—*Keene (N. H.) News.*

## PLANTS IN ROOMS.

The reason why plants fade so soon, is because due attention is not paid to them. The mere supplying with water is not sufficient. The leaves should be kept perfectly clean. "If as much washing were bestowed, in London," says Dr. Lindley, "upon a pot plant as upon a lap-dog, the one would remain in as good condition as the other. The reasons are obvious. Plants breathe by their leaves; and if their surface is clogged by dirt, of whatever kind, their breathing is impeded or prevented. Plants perspire by their leaves; and dirt prevents their perspiration. Plants feed their leaves; and dirt prevents their feeding. So that breathing, perspiration, and food, are fatally interrupted by the accumulation of foreign matters upon leaves. Let any one, after reading this, cast an eye upon the state of plants in sitting-rooms or well-kept greenhouses; let them draw a white handkerchief over the surface of such plants, or a piece of smooth white leather, if he desires to know how far they are from being as clean as their nature requires."

## TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS.

A good article on this subject urges (what we have long since endeavoured to enforce) "*that the roots while out of the ground, should be moist—that they should never for a moment even become dried during the process of transplanting.*" Hence a rainy day is recommended, in all cases, and especially where the roots are denuded. A few experiments are given. A long screen of Arbor-vitæ were set out in a stormy week, with the sod on. Six were set aside in a tub of water—four were left exposed to a drying wind. These four only died, out of two hundred and ten. The six, after three weeks neglect in the water, all survived. Again, fifty Norway Spruces, were set out on a moist day. One, by mistake, was left, and received a few hours of sunshine—this only died. We have succeeded well with some sorts, brought long distances, by insisting on the instant immersion of the roots in water, as soon as up—packing in wet moss, kept soaked with water—the roots plunged, in mud as soon as received, and laid in—and again mudded and the earth well settled with water, when transplanted. Removing plenty of earth on the roots—an infallible mode,—besides preserving all small fibres, keeps the roots constantly moist.—*Cultivator.*

## TO HEAD CABBAGES IN WINTER.

"Head him or die," was the vow of a politician; we forget which he did; but for us farmers he cabbages might as well die as forget to head.