

Orchard and Forest.

THE WILD GOOSE PLUM.

It ripens this year from the middle to the end of July. It has not been entirely curculio proof, but, compared with our common domestic plum, it is comparatively exempt from curculio attacks and the rot which supervenes in moist weather. It has been excessively wet, but this sort has not rotted in the least. It is said that they have now in the South several improved varieties of the Chickasaw species of plum, which, although inferior in quality to the Gages, &c., are worthy of cultivation. "The earliest good variety is Caradence; fruit of medium size; round, yellow, with brown, red cheek; flesh melting sweet, and vinous, slightly adhering to the stone; ripens end of May."

[Augusta, Georgia.] This variety shows hybrid characteristics. Next is the Wild Goose, a large, bright red fruit, a basket of which is an attraction to customers to any fruit dealer's stall. We end the season with Mountain and Newman's, both improved Chickasaws. The latter ripens from middle of July to middle of August, and is an extraordinary prolific variety. This is only a beginning of the introduction of a new race of plums, upon which the curculio seems to have no destructive power.

TRANSPLANTING IN THE NIGHT.

A gentleman, anxious to ascertain the effect of transplanting at night, instead of by day, made an experiment with the following results:

He transplanted ten cherry trees while in bloom, commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon, planting one each hour until one o'clock in the morning. Those transplanted during the daylight shed their blossoms, producing little or no fruit, while those planted in the dark maintained their condition fully. He did the same with ten dwarf trees, after the fruit was one-third grown. Those transplanted during the day shed their fruit; those transplanted during the night perfected their crop, and showed no injury from having been removed. With each of these trees he removed some earth with the roots. The incident is fully vouched for, and if a few more similar experiments produce a like result, it will be a strong argument to horticulturists, etc., to do such work at night. — *Western Rural*.

SETTING OUT TREES BY THE ROADSIDE.

The growth of timber, to take the place of our rapidly disappearing forests, has led farmers in some sections to plant out trees. While it may not be convenient or desirable for all to adopt this plan, every one can set trees by the roadside along his own land. There are many advantages to be obtained from them which can be seen at once to more than pay for the trouble. They beautify the premises and give a better appearance to the landscape. And if the trees are maple, which is one of the best and most easily raised, when grown they will furnish a large yield of maple sugar. If butternut or walnut, the nuts are in a measure a compensation for the labor of setting them out. There is to be in the future such a demand for wood, that it will not answer to cut them down and not replace them in some way. In Baden and other German States, as well as in some of the countries of France, the law obliges a person to plant a tree in place of every one cut down. In this way miles of rows of shade trees line the roads, making pleasant shaded walks through all the towns and villages. It is a fact not generally known that trees increase their wood-making capacity in about the ratio of the square of the number of years indicating their age. The third year they make nine times, the fifth year twenty-five times, and the tenth year one hundred times the amount of wood they make the first year. The tree grows more rapid as it gets older, and we cannot afford to cut them down until they get their growth. — *New England Homestead*.

TURPENTINE FOR BARK LICE.

A. C. Brinton, of Wilmington, Del., writes to *Moore's Rural New Yorker* that he has tried spirits of turpentine for bark lice with excellent results. Having an old paint brush that had become hard for want of proper care, he soaked it in spirits of turpentine, working out the paint until the brush was soft and pliable. Then, instead of throwing away the mixture, he went into the orchard and applied it to one apple and a pear tree, which were infested with bark lice. The trees were thoroughly painted from top to bottom, the application being made last April; and at this time the trees are in a flourishing condition, and no lice or their shells to be found. We had supposed that ordinary paint, as well as spirits of turpentine, were injurious to trees; but they may not be when applied to the bark before the leaves appear. The experiment of killing bark lice with turpentine is worth a trial by those who have apple orchards infested with this great and constantly increasing pest.

Recipes.

CLEANSING BLANKETS.

It is quite as important to have the blankets on our beds clean as to have the sheets pure and white. The foul emanations which they absorb in time make the bed anything but sweet. The Boston Journal of Chemistry gives the following method of cleansing blankets:—

Put two large tablespoonfuls of borax and a pint bowl of soft soap into a tub of cold water. When dissolved, put in a pair of blankets, and let them remain over night. Next day rub and drain them out, and rinse thoroughly in two waters, and hang them to dry. Do not wring them.

But this is not the only domestic use to which borax may be put. Says the same journal:—

Borax is the best cockroach exterminator yet discovered. This troublesome insect has a peculiar aversion to it, and will never return where it has once been scattered. As the salt is perfectly harmless to human beings, it is much to be preferred for this purpose to the poisonous substances commonly used.

Borax is also valuable for laundry use, to about ten gallons of boiling water, and you need use only half the ordinary allowance of soap. For laces, cambrics, etc., use an extra quantity of this powder. It will not injure the texture of the cloth in the least.

For cleansing the hair, nothing is better than a solution of borax water. Wash afterwards with pure water if it leaves the hair too stiff. Borax dissolved in water is also an excellent dentifrice, or tooth wash.

RECIPE FOR CURING MEAT.

The 'Germantown Telegraph' gives the following directions for curing beef or pork:

To one gallon of water take
1 lb. of salt,
1 lb. of sugar,
1 oz. of saltpetre,
1 oz. of potash.

In this ratio the pickle can be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork, to remain the usual time, say four or five weeks. The meat must be well covered with pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre, which removes all the surface blood, &c., leaving the meat fresh and clean. Some omit boiling the pickle, and find it to answer well, though the operation of boiling purifies the pickle, by throwing off the dirt always to be found in salt and sugar.

If this receipt is properly tried, it will never be abandoned. There is none that surpasses it, if so good.

CHEAP COLORING.

For Slat Color, take sumac berries, and boil them in an iron kettle in soft water, a gallon of water to a quart of berries. Throw a few bits of rusty iron into the liquid, to set the color; wash the goods in warm soap suds, and then put in the dye; bring to a boil, and then let it stand where it will keep hot for half an hour. Rinse in salt and water, and then wash in soap suds and dry. It will color either cotton or woolen goods a nice color.

For Brown, take the shucks from butternuts, and boil in the same manner. If rusty iron is scarce, a piece of copperas the size of a robin's egg will answer nicely. You can color every shade of brown, from the lightest to the very darkest brown, by keeping in the dye a longer or shorter time. The color is a good durable one, and does not rot the goods.

To Color Nankeen, take two quarts of hemlock bark to a gallon of water, boil in brass; set with copperas, wring the goods from hot soap suds, and dip in the boiling dye till you have the right shade; dry the goods before rinsing in salt and water.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural College, according to a lady who has explored it, and written of what she saw and experienced, to the Germantown Telegraph, is chiefly remarkable for its cheerless, cold and filthy halls and dormitories, and the unwholesome condition of its surrounding grounds. The students seem to be well fed, but the picture given of the institution otherwise, if true, is disgraceful to the great State of Pennsylvania. We notice this report reluctantly, especially since it concerns a sister State; but we do it in behalf of the boys and girls of farmers who, in their efforts to obtain education, deserve decent treatment, and to be taught the decencies of life at least. — *Rural New Yorker*.

[We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of many communications from our agricultural subscribers, some of them very interesting. We can only give such extracts as are interesting to our readers, and most conducive to the improvement of agriculture, to which our paper is chiefly devoted. On the Cultivation of Turnips we have received sixteen essays, all by practical farmers. On this we will treat by itself. We proceed with extracts from our correspondents.]

Correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BRANTFORD.

SIR,—I have not forgotten your valuable paper, which I consider is getting better every month. I think it is a paper which every farmer in this beautiful Dominion ought to have in his house.

The McCauley wheat I got from you last spring did pretty well, taking into consideration the very dry summer we had and the place where I sowed it being on a high, dry piece of ground. A good many of my neighbors want some of it for seed, as it is very clean and good.

The Farmers' Club which we established in our School Section last winter is again setting on famously. The attendance during the summer was small, but as the days got shorter the farmers came out more generally. We have had some very interesting and instructive discussions during the last few weeks.

I cannot quite agree with a paragraph in your last issue but one, from a Vice-president of a Farmers' Club, in which he says that he cannot see any good in agricultural papers. I know that I for one have received a good deal of benefit by reading them, and any man can find something useful to him in every paper of the kind.

There is one subject I am pleased to see so fully treated, that is, the "Butter Trade" of this country. There have been some articles on this subject which say that the farmers themselves are to blame for the poor quality of butter which has been exported from Canada for the last few years, but I am quite sure that the farmers are not altogether to blame in this case. The merchants in the small towns and villages are the most in fault. During the warm summer weather, when butter is most plentiful, they will buy any and all butter, no matter what quality, that comes to market; they then put it in their cellars along with all kinds of groceries, liquors, &c., and often with a coal oil barrel next to it. They pack all grades and qualities in the same tubs, and keep them in the exquisite atmosphere of a grocer's cellar for perhaps two or three months. Now, you know, sir, that there is nothing that will taint more from bad smells than butter, and I for one do not wonder at the low price such an article brings in the English markets.

Certainly there ought to be something done to remove the bad reputation our butter has got. I would just suggest one or two remedies which would at least help us. When farmers have a surplus supply let them get new tubs and pack their butter themselves, and when they take it to market let there be a butter inspector who is qualified to judge, and let him mark the packages according as they are good, bad or indifferent. This would at least be a protection to the merchants who buy this butter, and if the farmer found his butter marked bad and got his price accordingly, he would take some means to have his next lot better, if possible.

The buyers in the small towns must be heavy losers this year, if you look at the local markets during the past season and compare them with the reports of to-day of the Toronto and Montreal wholesale butter markets. They will be more careful in the future, and I think farmers as a class will have to make better butter to get a remunerative price, for the next two or three years.

I contend that there is no good reason why our butter should be so bad; we have surely as good a climate and as clever people as the State of New York, yet their butter will bring from 15 to 25 cents per pound more in the Eastern markets than ours, and the dealers on the other side, when they get a bad quality of butter, no matter where it comes from, brand it "Canada" and thereby prejudice the minds of the consumers against our butter, and are actually ruining the trade in one of the chief exports of the Province.

It is surely time something was done in our own defence, and I hope that these few suggestions will lead some of your older and more experienced subscribers to give us, through your columns, their thoughts upon the subject. With well wishes for your prosperity, I remain yours truly,
Brantford, Dec. 16th, 1872. "A FARMER."

FARMERS' CLUB.

SIR,—The Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club met at Cobourg on the last Saturday of November. The day was cold and the attendance small.

The President took the chair, and the Secretary read a report of their proceedings, setting

forth the various subjects that had been discussed in the year; that these discussions had all been published in the local papers, and some of them copied into the general papers. He regretted that so very few of the farmers took an interest in the proceedings; a well conducted Farmers' Club serves to create and encourage an inquiring spirit, leads the farmer to reflect and digest upon his observations, and to read more carefully and understandingly; to make experiments and to make them accurately, so as not only to satisfy his own mind but also the minds of others. Our farmers are not wanting in talent or natural capacity, but they want the practice to explain to them clearly and forcibly their own persuasions and opinions. This practice was afforded by a Club, where every one felt free to express himself, and was obliged to contribute something to the general fund.

The gentlemen who were to have introduced the subject for discussion—the Rotation of Crops—were both absent, but one of them sent a paper to be read to the meeting. The paper set forth the necessity of rotation and the importance of the subject; the old rotation was to plough, plough, plough, and sow wheat, and this time-honored rotation had been eminently successful in producing in the present day an abundant crop of debts, duns, and mortgages, and in almost driving some of our best cereals from the country. Our wheat—our pride and glory—which in the days of yore used to be bowed down with its load of golden grain, now hangs its head in very shame at the treatment we have given it. He called upon farmers for the honour of their profession to rise and restore their soils by a thorough system on a good rotation, as without a proper system the rotation of our lands to their former fertility would be a very slow undertaking.

The subject was then fully discussed by the various members present, each one setting forth his favorite rotation. Some thought that they ploughed too much land, others that as much money might be made from the soil as from the plough, and that if they pastured their land longer it would produce more grain when they did plough it up. The following, with some variations, seemed to be the most favorite rotation:—To break up the sod and sow it with peas, then wheat, then oats, then plowing and fallowing, then barley or wheat, seeding down with clover, and allowing the land to lie one, two or three years, manuring or pasturing as wanted.

The officers of the Club were then elected, as follows:—John Pratt, President, Walter Riddell, Secretary, and John Henderson, E. Bellerby and Peter Sidey, the committee of management. A SUBSCRIBER.

Cobourg, Dec. 11, 1872.

SEED AND FRUIT.

SIR,—I see by your report of the comparative yield and merits of the different kinds of wheat, that the result of your observation and experience differs somewhat from mine in this section of country.

Now, in reference to the Scott wheat, you speak of it as quite a new kind just being introduced. Now it has been quite common in this section of country for four or five years, and is generally admitted to be a good kind of wheat; but where the Deihl and bald Treadwell have been tried, as far as my observation goes and the testimony of my neighbors, they excel it both in yield and quality. You admit that the Deihl does well on the borders of Lake Erie; this I believe to be a fact, as here on the ridge, some four or five miles from the Lake, it does splendidly.

The bald Treadwell, I believe, does much better here than the barded, and I have sowed the Scott and the bald Treadwell side by side, in the same field, on the same day, in the same quality of soil, and treated both alike and the Treadwell yielded far the most and of the best quality. The potatoes you sent me last spring have done well.

A few words now in reference to fruit in this section. It has been abundant; all kinds cultivated here do well. Apples in this section, where well cultivated, have always been of a superior quality on account of the entire absence of the apple worm. The cause of its absence I am unable to give, when it is so great a pest in other parts of the country not far distant. I have noticed a discussion, either in the Advocate or Canada Farmer, in the course of a few years back, on the subject of bark and wood killing on high-headed apple trees—almost universally attributed to frosty winter winds, on account of the exposed state of the body. Now, this I consider an error, for three reasons: 1st, if caused by frosty winds, a low-headed tree would suffer as much as a high one, inasmuch as by the action of the top, near the ground the winds are brought more fully to a focus against the body. 2nd, if caused by that, a straight tree would be as likely to suffer as a slanting one, which I have never known to take place. 3rd, because all the trees I have ever known affected in this way, had small tops and were leaning from south to

north, or from south to north, and the rays of the sun were the sole cause.

Howard, Se.

[We are pleased to see that you are at variance with some localities some others. Many with us in the ally as regards further south the Deihl—E.]

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SIR,—I send Witness, cont be discussed a minion Board.

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