

wholly prevent the mildew on grape vines. Mr. Paffard, of Niagara, grows beautiful Sweetwater in the open trellis in his garden, and treats the Black Hamburg as a hardy grape, and by means of large and frequent applications of sulphur. The subject of long pruning, applied to the vine, is receiving the utmost attention at present. The longer the subject is discussed, will it appear evident that we have been cutting the vine too closely, its nature, habit, abundance of sap, all indicate that it requires to run, though it may be an extreme illustration, yet it is a just and applicable one. The single Black Hamburg vine at Hampton Court Palace fills the whole house, *ex uno disce omnes*. A curious and fanciful gardener, and what gardener is not both curious and fanciful, employed in our ideal test garden would speedily put all these test questions to the proof, and furnish us with ocular demonstration that fruit growers have been too long trying to confine vines too much to narrow limits. Mr. Hoskins' Rogers' 15 is a notable example of the benefits accruing from long pruning, which many of you by inspection have been able to judge of for yourselves. A better, a newer, era is dawning on fruit growing, and the united experience of cultivators freely disseminated will yet work wonders to the profession.

APPLES AND PEARS

are plentiful, notwithstanding that this is not the fruiting year of the former. Mr. B. Gott says that the crop of apples and pears is very promising and will be very fine, and the former will be most abundant. In the neighbourhood of Strathroy there is a splendid show of fruit. Recently I travelled along a part of the 4th concession, Adelaide Township, and found some orchards groaning under an unusual weight of apples. At St. Thomas, too, there is the prospect of a remunerative yield. Altogether we have reason to express our gratitude with great thankfulness to the bountiful Giver of all good gifts for the ample supply of delicious fruits, and especially for the wholesomest of all fruits—the apple. It would gratify many fruit growers to know the extent of the season's apple crop, We trust that, while we meet as an association in our annual gathering at Ottawa, a committee will be appointed to wait upon the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, and represent how easy it would be to embrace in the forthcoming statistical report questions adapted to call forth an accurate account of the yield of fruit, and especially of apples. I have no faith in the guesswork that is annually put forth by interested producers who know little or nothing about the extent of our fruit crop. Haphazard statements of so many hundred thousand barrels have had their day, we trust, and that now we can look forward to carefully prepared tables which will be unerring as a guide to our fruit growers. We notice, from a circular of Messrs. Woodall & Co., Liverpool, that the apple crop in England is almost a failure. It is a bad wind that blows nobody good. What is the extremity of English fruit growers will prove to be a rich harvest to Canadian horticulturists. Every barrel should be sent to the British market that can be spared from our own, care being taken that fair, hand-picked, good fruit is forwarded, not for a remunerative return, but for the credit and good repute of our Ontario fruit dealers. Let us all rejoice in the fruit prospects of this abundant fruit season. Of new apples we were favoured with a sample of Lord Suffield, forwarded to us by our indefatigable Director, Mr. A. McD. Allan, of Goderich. Alas for his Lordship's reputation, we mistook him for a sample of Willson's early harvest apple, and made a premature incision, which has thrown a favourable report of the excellent qualities of his Lordship's back to another season. The Jefferis has been on our show-tables for two years. We can strongly recommend its general cultivation. It is tender and delicious, of great beauty in its appearance, one of the finest dessert apples, and productive. We again call your attention to a remarkable crab-apple brought to our notice by Mr. Wood, of Guelph, now of Fergus. It is ironclad, delicious for dessert, and beautiful in shape and appearance. It would be well worth propagating by some of our go-ahead nurserymen. Hitherto nobody of our acquaintance has taken its dissemination in hand; the more's the pity. P. C. Dempsey, of Albury, writes, in regard to seedlings, that in the County of Hastings and neighbouring counties there are many orchards which have been planted from fifty to eighty years, containing fine samples of natural fruit. Our Association lags in not arising and securing these seedlings for more general propagation. An experimental or test garden would soon enhance valuable varieties in public estima-

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