

## GRAFTING IN THE TOP.

Mr. D. Bell has a farm about six miles north-west from Cobourg. Last fall he called on me offering some very fine Spitzenburg apples. I asked him how many he had. He said thirty-two barrels. I then asked him how many trees he had gathered them from. He said five. And how many did you get from the five trees last year? He said eighteen barrels. As I knew the Spitzenburg to be a poor grower, I asked him to explain. Mr. Bell said, about twenty-six years ago he planted about three and a half acres of apple trees, consisting of Golden Russet, Spitzenburg, Northern Spy, Greening, Red Canada, Talman Sweet, Baldwin, &c., &c. Twelve or fifteen years ago he cut back to about four or five feet from the ground five seedling apple trees that were growing in the garden, (they were about eight years old,) and grafted them with the Spitzenburg, hence the above result. He stated that the Spitzenburgs that were planted twenty-six years ago are nearly all dead, as are also the Baldwins, but the Spitzenburgs that were top-grafted are almost as large as the Talman Sweet that are in the Orchard, and are fine and healthy. Mr. J. W. Johnstone, Campbellford, called on me a few days ago, and I stated to him Mr. Bell's success in top-grafting. He then told me how he had succeeded with the Northern Spy. Seven years ago he cut back a seedling three or four years old and grafted the N. Spy on it. The fifth year after grafting he gathered  $1\frac{1}{4}$  barrels, the sixth year  $1\frac{1}{2}$  barrels, and last fall  $1\frac{1}{4}$  barrels. Four years ago he top-grafted three seedlings, and last fall he gathered about half a barrel from each, showing that top grafting is best for some varieties. Through Mr. Johnstone's recommendation, a Mr. Burgess, of Baltimore, (five miles from here) planted ten acres of seedlings last spring. When they are three or four years old he intends to top-graft all of them. If any one wishes to try top-grafting let him sow the apple seeds next spring. The following spring select such as have made a good growth and have healthy stocks, and I think they will find top-grafting to be superior to root-grafting, especially for the north.

J. D. ROBERTS, *Cobourg.*

## ENLARGING THE HORTICULTURIST.

I am pleased with the HORTICULTURIST, which comes quite regularly, but I would like to see it enlarged, even although we should be obliged to pay more for it. Send me the *Hydrangea paniculata*. I would have taken the Wealthy apple, but last year I bought a number from Dr. Hoskins, which so far have done well. I will report later on, as this is the place to try them, as while I write the thermometer stands at 22 degrees below zero, and it sometimes goes to 40.

A. A. WRIGHT, *Renfrew.*

Several valuable communications are unavoidably crowded out of this issue. They will appear in the June number.