

Pioneer Fruit Picker.—Mr. Burgess writes: "I think if Madam Eve, or Mrs. Adam, had used the Pioneer Fruit Picker it would have saved her some trouble, as I understand it was only *choicc specimens* she used, and not the general crop."

Clean Manure!!—The *New Farm* makes the following extract from the *R. N. Y.*: "The cold well water which we are apt to look upon as the purest of all drink, is fairly reeking with disease germs . . . imperceptible to the taste or smell. . . . The ordinary farm vault is a veritable plague spot," &c.; and then adds: "If these disease germs are conveyed into vegetables instead of into water, is the case any the better? and yet the garden is fertilized by the same material which poisons the water without imparting 'taste or smell.' We believe in using clean fertilizers on crops for human food." Our exchange would deprive our gardeners of the most valuable manure they can possibly use by this curious statement. Who ever heard of garden vegetables taking up from the soil any disease germs or other elements foreign to their natural constitution?

A Toronto Lady writes: "Allow me to express my pleasure and sense of the usefulness of such information concerning the cultivation of window and other desirable plants, as Mr. Hermann Simmers gives of the Easter Lily in the December issue. Florists do themselves great injury, both in guarding their methods of growing popular flowers, and in sneering at, or writing over the heads of amateurs, as is too frequently done. The more flowers we are successful in growing, the more we shall buy."

Fugimation for Aphides.—Eben Rexford writes in the *Orchard und Garden* that he has found nothing so satisfactory for ridding the greenhouse

of plant lice as fumes of tobacco. Kerosene emulsion, tobacco soap, tobacco water, all effectual enough and suitable for outdoor use, are too dirty to be used inside. The plants should be well sprinkled first, and a dense smoke left in over night, then the death of the aphids is certain.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

A SOCIETY has been formed in New York City for the protection of birds. It is called the Audubon Society in honor John James Audubon, the great American naturalist, and it originates in a desire to put a stop to the wholesale destruction of our useful and ornamental birds, which just now threatens to rob our yards and forests of a great portion of their charms.

This savage butchery of birds for uses of ornament and fashion is now carried to an extent that most thoughtless devotees of fashion, were the facts once laid before her. We say her, because it is kind, sympathetic, compassionate woman who shrinks from brutality, and is naturally the champion of the beautiful in nature; it is she, we say, who encourages this murderous business.

Here are a few figures to startle the most thoughtless, selected from the Society's circular:

"Although it is impossible to get at the exact number of birds killed each year, some figures have been published which give an idea of what the slaughter must be. We know that a single local taxidermist handles 30,000 bird skins in one year; that a single collector brought back from a three months' trip 11,000 skins; that from one small district on Long Island about 70,000 birds were brought to New York in four months' time. In New York one firm had on hand February 1, 1886, 200,000 skins. The supply is not limited by domestic consump-