

## \* Open Letters. \*

### Notes from St. Joseph's Island.

SIR,—I thought perhaps it might be interesting to you to know just how our fruit trees came through a winter here in Algoma, when the thermometer got down to 44 below zero. We know that in Manitoba that degree of frost means not only no fruit, but no fruit trees, with perhaps the exception of that one tree that appeared in a late number of the *HORTICULTURIST*. Without attempting any explanation, it is a fact that we experienced that degree of cold, and that the loss by trees being killed to the ground would not exceed one per cent. among apples, and ten per cent. in pears. I saw a statement in an American paper the other day, that Japan plums would not stand more than 15 to 20 below zero, without being killed root and branch; but this summer I have examined several trees of Abundance, and cannot see that they have sustained the slightest injury, one tree in particular with a north and west exposure clear through to Lake Superior, although like other trees in the small orchard—leaning away from the cold—was making good growth. Of course, we had little fruit on cherries or plums; the trees bloomed, but the fruit never set, owing, I think, more to the long continued rain when the trees were in bloom in the spring. In my own orchard, the only tree that I can say sustained any injury from the cold, was a Yellow Spanish cherry, part of last year's growth being killed and all the fruit buds.

We have had considerable rain during the summer, which perhaps will account for our apples being not so highly colored as usual, still the specimens to be seen at the different Fall shows would be hard to beat even in your highly favored district for anything except size. Fall apples were good, trees of Duchess and Wealthy had in most instances to be propped up as usual. Of long keeping winter apples we have a poor crop, in fact we are yet looking for a long keeper. Scotts Winter is perhaps the best so far, but is too small and too much of the cast metal order. Give us something better if you can.

Our summer boarders, the Forest tent caterpillars, have come and gone. Next year

we will have few or none, at least they themselves have made no arrangements for next summer. A neighbor of mine says they ate off every green leaf before they were full grown, and died of starvation before they could spin their cocoons.

I believe their visit has done us some good. You see it is hard for a man who makes the growing of fruit a kind of side show, to understand the first injunction on your spraying calendar, spray before the buds open, but when he sees the young caterpillars, he sees an urgent necessity for killing them quick.

CHAS. YOUNG

*Richard's Landing, Ont.*

### Japan Plums.

SIR,—In your October issue I note the letter of S. Speedwell under the heading of "Japan Plums in Simcoe County;" now "Simcoe" is a very large county, and there may be doubtless some favored portions of it where the Abundance plum tree will do well and bear fruit; but it is not anywhere about this locality. It would add much interest to Mr. Speedwell's letter to know from what section of the county he writes, say his nearest post office, I have twice procured Abundance and other Japanese plum trees and given them the best of care; at most they lingered for three or four years, blossomed once or twice and then died without ever having yielded any fruit.

C. I. STEPHENS.

*Orillia.*

### The Church and Horticulture.

SIR,—Will you permit me to say to the readers of *THE HORTICULTURIST* that I am not responsible for the errors abounding in my contribution to the October number. Apart from the use made of that article, the clauses omitted from it and the errors left in it, the October number is an exceptionally fine number.

T. H. RACE.

*Mitchell, Oct. 9.*

At Covent Garden Market the first arrival of Canadian apples and pears were sold on Wednesday (yesterday) by Messrs. W. N. White & Co. (Limited). The Howell pears made 5s. 3d. to 5s. 9d. per case, and Bartletts from 2s. 6d.

to 7s. 6d. Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., are dealing with these Canadian supplies at Bristol, and the North of England Fruit Brokers (Limited) at Manchester.—Fruit Grower, Sept. 21st.