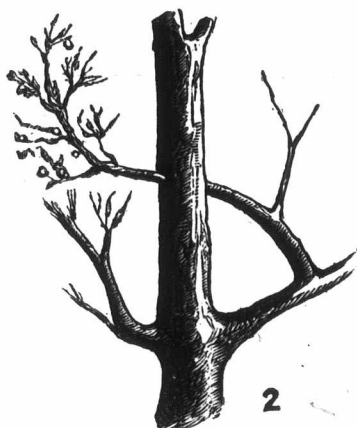


**On the Wing.**

(Continued from Page 98.)

Mr. Palmer, in his exuberance of kindness, took possession of our horse and insisted on our staying over night. In the evening he took us to see his friend, Mr. McWilliams, living near by. Mr. McWilliams is one of the rare specimens of native Canadians from Irish and Dutch descent, a man we should judge to stand over six feet high and to weigh about 300 lbs. At the farmers' bees and raisings at which he assisted the butt end of a log would go on the top of a log-heap with a "whoop," and the plate of the barn on the side he worked would be first up, and the old woods would fairly ring again with the "hurrah" that would then fill the air. He has now the comforts and luxuries of civilization at his command. His principal crop has been, is, and, from what we could judge, will



be wheat, wheat, wheat. In this part of the country they do not pay as much attention to root and stock raising as in many other localities. It is our impression that roots and stock will have greater attention paid to them in future on the Plains than they have previously received. His principal root crop is potatoes, of which he plants about nine acres annually. We asked him how he managed to protect them from the Colorado bug. He said they were not troubling him now; he got a potato bug catcher that was made in Waterloo, and a boy pushed it up and down the rows once a week; and this kept his potatoes pretty free from this pest. He said a boy would go over four acres a day easily with it, and that it cost him much less than destroying them with Paris Green. It kept his potatoes free from the bugs, and there was no danger to man or beast.

The farmers in this section are using large quantities of salt. They find it has even a better effect than plaster. A box of it is put on the hind end of a wagon, a man or boy drives the horses, and one man sits at the end of the wagon and sows it right and left, using both hands. They sow about one barrel to the acre, putting it on the ground either with the seed or before or after seeding, and cultivate or harrow it in with the seed.

In Paris, Ont., we noticed that one of the lawns had been cut with the lawn mower, April 16th. This we think worthy of record, as we never saw grass so long so early in the season; and perhaps twenty years hence some of your children may turn to this record in one of the bound volumes of the *ADVOCATE*. We remember feeding straw on the 20th of May to our hungry cattle, when they could not get their noses to the ground for snow. What a contrast to the present season!

**A NOVEL WAY OF TRAINING TREES.**

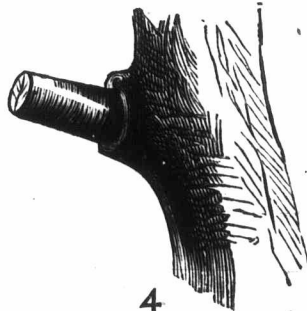
When in Mr. Palmer's orchard our attention was called to a plan that the former proprietor had practiced on some of the trees. Where a limb of an apple tree had grown in such a manner as would be likely to cause it to break off or split the tree when bearing, he had taken a sucker or shoot from the limb and put it through an auger hole bored

through the body of the tree or a limb that could support the dangerous one. The shoot had grown and the body of the tree had also grown, so as to show no defect; one would have thought it was a natural growth by the appearance of the bark. The limb placed through the other was as vigorous as any other part of the tree, and was well set for fruit; the tree was also as vigorous as others in the orchard.



We instructed our artist to draw the accompanying sketch, No. 2, to show you in what way this is done. There had been many trees done in the same manner. Some of our readers may try the plan; it will be quite a curiosity, and it may be very useful to amateurs and those having time to make ornamental and curious trees. We presume that the proper time to do this with best effect would be at grafting or budding time, when by binding the parts tight and excluding the air, a sure growth would be the result and the wounds would then soon heal over.

When at Dr. Francis' garden, in the township of Delaware, some years ago, we noticed a fine large



apple tree well laden with fruit. The limbs of the tree were in such forms that they could not have borne the fruit without breaking or splitting the tree. The Doctor had several years previous bored holes through the limbs and connected them by means of strong iron rods having solid heads at one end and screws at the other. The rods were put through the tree as shown in Fig. 1. This is also a good plan where trees are valuable and proper care has not been taken when they were young to give them a proper shape. Many valu-

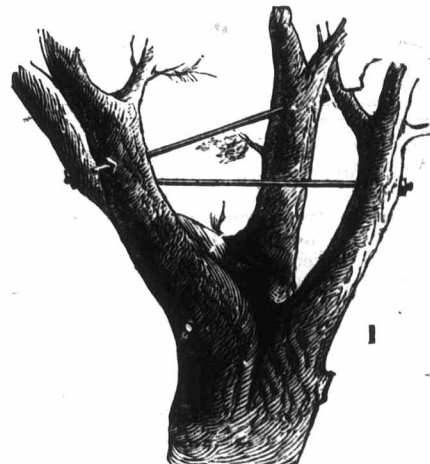


able trees are destroyed every year when there is a good crop of fruit. This plan may be of some use to some of you.

In passing through the country we often see where limbs of trees have been improperly cut off and a large dead stub is sticking out. We give figures 3 and 4 to show how they appear, and no doubt many of you have seen them also. Fig. 5 shows where a limb has been properly cut off and

the wound almost healed. As soon as you get this paper you may go through your orchard and prune off any small twigs that are growing where you will not want them. It will save much labor by cutting when they are small and do no injury to the trees. Some of the boys may try the through-grafting with a large gimlet or small auger. Try it quietly on some limb, and when you get it growing you will be delighted to show it to your friends. Our nurserymen may put this plan to great profit by making very handsome and curiously shaped trees. We know of no nurseryman who has taken up this branch of the business in America. There is money in it for some.

Perhaps some smart Yankee may get out a patent for some such process. If one could patent the plan it would be a good thing, as there would be a chance of remuneration for those who would



go through the country and teach people how to grow trees in beautiful, artistic and curious forms. Just try it this spring and give us a drawing of your growing tree when it is united, and we will have a cut made of it for publication.

**Look to the Apple-Tree.**

The time will soon come when if apple-trees are suffering from the borer, the effect will be seen in the foliage before the proper maturing time comes. By the term "borer" different insects may be understood; but the one we mean, and which is the only one people trouble themselves much about in this part of the world, is the one which enters the stem of the tree near the ground and bores its way up the trunk, just below the bark, in the young wood. It can be readily detected by examining the trunk at that spot, and if this borer is there small sawdust-like particles which have been ejected by the larva of the insect will appear. The numerous holes which this fellow makes cuts off a large supply of the sap which ought to go from the roots to the leaves, and these therefore become half-starved, and thus results the yellow color.

To get these worms out is the one universal thought; but people differ as to how it is best to be done. In years gone by the most popular process was to run up a stiff wire, but people have found by experience that the "worm" is not always crushed by it, especially if he has genius enough to make his way a devious one. The wire strikes against the side, and while we are laughing at the thought of his utter destruction, if it has reason and not instinct, as some writers contend for insects and animal life in general, it is probably laughing at its lucky escape. This plan does not seem to satisfy many people, for there are continually appearing new modes which are supposed to do better than the old one.

One of the most original of these is to take clay, temper it so that it will hold water pretty well, and then make a dish around the base of the tree, the edge extending up as high as the worms have probably ascended. Water is then poured in and the insects are drowned out. We should be afraid it would be as hard to get the water to run up into these worm-holes as for water to get up into an inverted tumbler. However, whether this or any other plan is good or not, there is nothing to our mind like taking them out with the jack-knife. This is easily done without much horizontal injury to the bark, and there is a satisfaction in being able to look straight into the eyes of one's enemy, and to testify positively to his death.