

first I expected the writer to follow it up and explain his meaning, but he appears to have satisfied himself when he told that he was the best writer in the school. I will venture to say that he is not the best farmer in his township. I would recommend him to open his eyes and look around him, and see if he can reckon one farmer who is not better off now than he was ten years ago, for every ten who are worth a dollar for every cent they were worth at that time. Perhaps I am laying it on a little too heavy, but I am certain that if as many men go into any other business, with the same capital both in money and knowledge, as go into farming, where there is one failure in farming there will be ten in any other business. Let farmers be educated in their business and there need not be a farm in Canada which does not pay for working. It is a notorious fact that farmers as a class know the least of their business than any other class in the country, and the reason is obvious; if a man does not know enough to make a living at anything else, he can make one at farming. Now I do not want anybody to imagine that I think all farmers ignorant far from it; I know there are among farmers as intelligent men as among any other class, which makes it harder for the ignorant to keep up their heads as they have those intelligent men to compete with. But really I don't know but that I have made a mistake, for if they had not the intelligent ones to introduce superior stock, seeds and implements; they would soon go to the dogs entirely.

But if I do not mind I will get on to another subject. I started this in order to try and induce "Young Canadian" to try and find out the reason why farming as a general thing is not made to pay, and how anybody can see hundreds of farmers who commenced the world with nothing but their hands to labor with, and not so long ago either, who are now independent as far as having plenty of money, good farms, and good buildings will make them so, and who never done anything but farm. That such men exist all around us no one can deny. Then how in the name of common sense can any one ask if farming pays?

We are much pleased with "Rustic's" letter, and we hope it will wake up "Young Canadian." The subject is a good one and gives both a fair field, and we hope "Young Canadian" will not let the subject rest as long as "Rustic" has. Six months for a reply is rather long, but better late than never. We will give a fair space for argument.

HORSES PUTTING OUT THEIR TONGUES.

SIR.—In reading your paper I see that Mr. McTavish, of Lebo, enquires what is the cause and how to prevent a horse from putting his tongue out. The cause is that when colts are breaking they get into the habit of getting the bit under their tongue, to prevent which the bit must be made to bear against the roof of the mouth, so that they cannot get their tongues over the bit.

We have started a Farmers' Club in this section, and I think it will be of great benefit. THOS. HENDERSON.

Ingersoll, Feb. 13th, 1872.

SEEDS.

SEEDS, TREES AND PLANTS.

SIR.—The garden seeds I received from you in the spring have all done well. Breese's King of the Early potatoes did not turn out as well as they were represented; they grew large but were quite soft and watery. The Early Rose variety, planted in the same soil, is quite better both in size and quality and is quite as early. The Prolifics have turned out well both in size and quantity; they are also very dry.

I would recommend James's Improved Scarlet Carrots to all your readers who grow carrots in their gardens; they also answer well for a field crop, being much before the Early Horn variety. And I must say that farmers who have not a nice vegetable and flower garden located near their houses lose much both in taste and usefulness. I have always had both, and I would be quite at a loss how to spend a spare hour if I had not my flowers and cabbage plants to look after morning and evening, when the more arduous tasks of the farm does not interfere.

My experience in apple trees has been very little since I came to America. Four years last fall I ordered two dozen and a half of

apple and pear trees from the Windsor nursery, which were well packed and addressed carefully, but owing to the carelessness of the agents of the "Lady Head" steamer, they were left in Quebec for two weeks in the first of November, and when I got them they were all frozen hard. I laid them in a cellar and covered the roots with earth until the spring, then planted them out, but only one pear and five apple trees lived. I find that early apples are the only ones that do any good below Quebec. The late kinds do not ripen the young wood sufficiently to stand the frost in winter. In the spring of '70 I ordered from Mr. James Dougall a few early kinds, which are doing very well, the first has not injured the young wood in any way. The late kinds make no advance, having to cut the young wood back so much every spring. Even the St. Lawrence apple does not ripen its young wood.

W. M. Evans, Esq., of Montreal, advertises a few kinds of apples in his catalogue, but does not say whether they are standard or dwarf. With the exception of three kinds they are all late and winter varieties. Had they been early kinds, I would have advised those wishing to purchase apple trees below Quebec to have done so from Mr. Evans, as the freight is always over double the first cost of the trees from Ontario, and also great delay in forwarding it.

On the 12th of September we had frost which froze down potatoes, peas, beans, also grain which was backward in ripening.

The potatoes were not half a crop, having been struck so very early with rust. Grain and hay crops very good. Yours truly, JOHN G. FAIR.

New Carlisle, Q., Jan. 19, 1872.

CROWN PEAS.

SIR.—The year before last I tried a few of the Crown Peas and did not think much of them at that time, but last year I tried them again, and threshed 35 bushels from only three-quarters of an acre. THOS. ROBSON.

Vancouver, Feb. 1872.

McCARLING WHEAT, ETC.

SIR.—I procured a pound of McCaulling wheat from you last spring which yielded me 3 pecks of clean wheat after threshing, and was of much better quality than the seed from which it was sown. I think well of it, and expect it will be an acquisition to the farmers of Canada. The New Brunswick oats I received from you also did very well, yielding more than any other variety I have sown.

You are doing much good to the country by the dissemination of seeds from your Emporium and the spreading of information through the ADVOCATE. I am surprised that so many of the farmers do not subscribe for your paper and that many of them patronize American papers in preference to their own independent Canadian paper which has done so much for their interests. Do not be discouraged, Mr. Editor; you will yet have the country's acknowledgment of the services rendered through the Emporium and ADVOCATE.

Yours truly, WM. McKENZIE.

East Nissouri, Feb. 1st, 1872.

CROWN PEAS.

SIR.—The Crown Peas I got from you have done extremely well. They yielded just one-half more than my golden vines, the yield being 38½ bushels to the acre. The other new seeds have done well. J. R. TODD.

Kilsyth, Feb. 16, 1872.

THE POTATO.

SIR.—The selection, the cultivation, and the propagation of that valuable esculent root, the potato, appears to be an absorbing topic of discussion in every agricultural publication. The vaunted qualities, their choice perfection and varied charms come in for special observation. Now, sir, I wish to raise a theory that seems, in my perusal of these discussions, to have been omitted, and that is how long or how endurable are these qualities supposed to exist? Echo answers, yes, how long do these monitors for methods of planting and the selection of soil for planting imagine the standard quality is to endure? Reason, pausing for a reply, insinuates (a fact apparently) that it can only endure so long as nature endures to feed this perfection, and no longer! Having fulfilled its mission to a given degree and maturity having brought its desired end and quality to a standard of excellence, may there not be some reason for the impression that it then falls into a down-

ward path of degeneracy and that when the "sear and yellow leaf" of its organization becomes enfeebled in its decline, that the decay ensues; and hence the disappearance from our midst of so many well-known selections, whose approved choice for excellence and notoriety were once as "familiar as household words," but have now vanished from reality like a pleasing dream. In my humble opinion—and I only write for the purpose of suggesting a feasible cause—science must fix its grip to confound the argument of the potato being permanently unchangeable in its entire perfection. It must show it to be a temporary shadow of imagination and a fallacy to suppose that any laws of cultivation or careful selection of adapted soil will preserve or prolong its destined agency. If this is the cause cannot the remedy apply to a culture by perseverance and propagation from the seedling?

If these remarks, Mr. Editor, should affect any instructive comment for advancing the growing demand for this root, my aim will be rewarded, and if you wish it, may revert again to the subject. WILD VINE.

Westminster, Feb. 17th, 1872.

We thank our correspondent "Wild Vine" for his contribution. The very principal he aims to establish appears to be the one that we have labored for the past seven years to bring before the public, that is, the actual necessity of having new varieties of seeds. We shall be pleased to have more from the same pen.

SEED REPORT.

SIR.—The 4 ounces of McCaulling Wheat I got from you last spring did first rate. I have 6 lbs. and some ounces of it and it is beautiful grain. It was sown near some other wheat and had no extra chance or care. The Norway Oats I got from you two years ago are, in my estimation, a humbug. They yield no better than other oats, nor can I see any difference either in growth or looks. The Surprise Oats appear to be a prime article, good and heavy, but I do not think much of either the Norway or the New Brunswick Oats, although the dry season and the soil may not have suited them. The garden seeds I got from you were fresh and all of them grew. They are the first good seeds I ever got. DAVID JOHNSTON.

Whittington, Feb. 16, 1872.

HORTICULTURE.

THE ORCHARD.

SIR.—You will recollect when you paid me a visit last summer that, at your request, I promised to try and write short articles for the ADVOCATE. Hoping you will pardon me for neglecting it so long, I will now give you some sketches from my Diary for 1872:

Jan. 5.—Took a trip twelve miles to see a friend and counted as I rode along 35 orchards composed mostly of young trees. Twenty of these orchards had the gates open or the fences thrown down, so that cattle could roam in them at will. Nearly all the trees were more or less browsed, and one orchard had pigs, colts and sheep in it. I counted eight trees about five inches in diameter, with the bark gnawed off three to five feet high. Such sheer negligence as this to an enthusiastic fruit-grower seems almost criminal, and I must say that I felt like getting out of my sleigh and going in search of the owner and giving him what some would term a good blowing up. Only five orchards out of the 35 could be said to be in a prosperous condition, and I think I am not far astray in saying that not more than one tree in twenty that are planted out lives to produce a fair crop of fruit.

There are in every section of the country some careless ones who fail in almost everything they undertake; but such rarely ever have enterprise enough even to attempt to grow an orchard. There are farmers who succeed well in other respects who, nevertheless, utterly fail to raise a good fruit orchard. Now, the question very naturally arises, why is it that farmers should thus waste their time and money in planting fruit trees, and then carelessly allow them to be thus destroyed. I will endeavor partially to answer the question and point out what I believe to be some of the reasons:

1. Many plant orchards without first counting the cost, and seem to think they should grow like the trees in the forest, without further care. But they should remember that scarcely one in a thousand of the seeds that germinate in the woods ever mature a large tree. There is a proverb that "Eternal vigi-

lance is the price of good fruit." If the author had said that "Eternal vigilance is the price of good fruit trees," he would not have been much astray, for he that has tact and skill to raise and manage fruit trees properly and have them in the best possible condition, will not fail to grow good fruit.

2. Many fail for want of a good fence. A straight fence is best; as worm fences afford shelter for mice, which often gnaw and destroy the trees. The best plan is to fence well first and plant afterwards.

3. Many fail because they do not protect their trees from mice in winter. The best plan and the cheapest is to take four feet lath, cut it in two feet lengths, set on their ends around the tree the number of pieces required, which fasten at the top and bottom by lapping a piece of fine wire around; give it a twist to hold it in place, and your trees will be safe.

4. Many make a mistake by putting the orchard where they will have to pass through with teams to get to the house or barn, or perhaps they have a narrow lane alongside which gets filled with snow; the orchard fence must be thrown down to get out, and in a few hours the labor of years is lost. The farmer's road to his buildings should be at least six rods wide.

5. Many failures are caused by planting in wet land without drainage. Fruit trees will not prosper with wet feet.

Lastly, There are many cases of failure through ignorance in planting, carelessness in plowing and so barking the trees or breaking off the roots. The best time to plow and harrow a young orchard is before the leaves are out in the spring, or after they fall off in the fall, as then the bark is set to the wood. Every farmer should understand how to prune, graft, &c. S. H. MITCHELL.

St. Mary's, Feb. 1872.

Selected for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

"I WILL BYE-AND-BYE."

You may as well resolve you'll never do it! I am out of all patience with these "bye-and-bye" folks. "One hour of present tense is worth a week in the future."

Why, I know a bachelor as well calculated for matrimonial felicity as every virtue and every accomplishment can render him; but he has been putting off the happy time from one year to another, always resolving that he would marry "bye-and-bye" and "bye-and-bye"—till the best ten years of his life are gone, and he is still resolving, and I fear will die the same. He that would gather the roses of matrimony should wed in the May of life. If you only wish the withered leaves and thorns, why put it off till September?

—Procrastination is the thief of time.

I made a visit last winter to see my old friend. When we had put our horses into the stable he took me to his barn floor to see some of his white wheat he had just threshed. I observed to him that one of the boards of the barn was nearly falling and he had better nail it. "I will bye-and-bye," said he. Things about the farm looked a little as though "bye-and-bye" folks lived there. Next morning the boys came running in with the sad news that an unruly bull had torn off the board, and all the cattle had supped and breakfasted on the white wheat. An old brindle cow in the drove was foundered so bad that she died. Now, three or four nails worth a penny and five minutes time would have saved the life of old brindle, and the white wheat into the bargain. "Remember a stitch in time saves nine."

Passing by a neighbor one day last spring I saw that his wife had made a fine garden, and the early peas were springing luxuriantly above ground. "Neighbor, but there is a hole in your fence which you had better mend, or the hogs will ruin your garden." "I will bye-and-bye," said he. Happening to pass there a few days after, I was half deafened with the cry of "Whoo, whoo—stubby, stubby!" A drove of hogs came along, and while my neighbor was taking a nap they had crawled through the broken fence and destroyed the labor of a week. "Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day." A. A.

Bury's Green, Feb. 13, 1872.

The next will be a short lecture for the month of April.

From careful experiments it has been discovered that plants slightly watered every day often perish, and always become dwarfed; whereas a good soaking given twice a week almost invariably proved very beneficial. Thorough soaking of the ground two or three times a week is much better than the same amount of water applied in dribbles daily, only sufficient to wet the upper surface, but not the under strata of earth contiguous to the roots.