

a poor, starved look, at which, as we looked at the soil, we did not wonder.

Of the business done here there is but little to be said. We were told there was no business in summer; in winter the business was to entertain strangers. To-morrow we return to Tocoï, and take the steamboat for a further trip up the St. John's River.

#### KEEPING APPLES.

MR. EDITOR.—I send you to-day four specimens of Greenings, two of which were kept in the ordinary way in closed barrels. You will notice how badly they are discoloured. One might almost imagine they had been designedly bruised all over. The other two bright fresh-looking ones were kept in what are known as the "Cochrane Cases." Had our cellar been sufficiently cool they would have been firmer than they now are.

These cases are made of slats of wood nailed together in box form, being about 21 inches square on the top and 12 inches high. They are made of slats placed about half an inch apart, so as to allow the free admission of air to the inside. Their interior is filled with pasteboard compartments arranged in a manner similar to an ordinary egg case, with the exception that each section has a small notch cut out of each side, thus enabling the air to have free access to every part of the case. These small compartments are made of various sizes to suit any sized fruit that it may be required to pack in them, and as each specimen of fruit occupies a separate paper compartment they do not touch each other.

Consequently, should any one of the specimens packed chance by any means to decay, it will not spread the contagion to any other portion of the case. Should any of your readers desire to prolong the keeping season of any par-

ticular variety of fruit, I know of no way so calculated to assist him as the use of these "Cochrane Cases." I this year experimented with them in endeavouring to keep the Large Red Wethersfield Onion, but, owing to our cellar being a little too warm, it was not a complete success; yet still it was by no means a failure. I purpose, however, making a more careful test next season, which I trust will meet with gratifying results. I shall report in due course as to my success or failure. It is perhaps pertinent to add that the principal drawback to the employment of these cases to a very large extent is their cost, seventy-five cents being the price asked for each in Montreal. It must, however, be remembered that with careful management they will last for several years, so that in the end they will not prove so expensive as one might at first imagine.

A. A. WRIGHT.

Renfrew, April 3rd, 1884.

#### EARLY-RISING SAP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:

SIR,—In the March number your Muskoka correspondent, T. A. H., says that a friend of his is of the opinion "that it is not altogether the hard winter's frost that damages the fruit trees here in the north so much, as that the ground here seldom freezes hard on account of the heavy snows, causing the sap to start too early and thereby get a severe check."

To his friend's opinion I can add a friend's observation. On a village lot, undrained, and of heavy clay, this friend has had very fair success in growing apple trees. He mulches heavily, and to this, in talking to him last summer, I attributed his success. "Yes," said he, "and I believe that the mulching has an effect which I have never