

cially imitated ruins will add to the picturesque beauty of the place, and in making these it is advisable to take some well known ruin or a portion thereof as a model, constructing it on a smaller scale: it will be much more likely to be architecturally correct than any fanciful structure that we can devise, and correctness as to detail is important because everything that is done in the laying out of a pleasure ground should be artistic—educational, and bear criticism. GEO. MOORE.

CATERPILLARS.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE:

Dear Sir,—You will think this is rather a queer heading for my letter, but, knowing what we had to come through last season to save the fruit trees, I thought it best to warn those who would like some apples next year to be up and doing.

Had the fruit-growers attended to the nests of caterpillars last winter they would have had much less work last spring and summer. For four or five years at least, the caterpillars had not been very much trouble prior to 1899, but they made up for it last season. In fact, in some localities they devoured all the foliage, leaving the trees as bare as in mid-summer. Now is the time to destroy them; the whole proverb "a stitch in time will save nine" is just as true in connection with caterpillars as anything I know of.

The young eggs are in rings round the smaller branches of the apple-trees. Many say they have not noticed them, but if you wish to see them, go on a hunting expedition the first fine day that there is no snow on the branches and you will easily find them: without the aid of spectacles, too. The best way to destroy them is to cut off the branches where they are clustered in millions, and burn the limbs in the fire, and in that way the greater portion of your labor will be done for next year; otherwise you will find it difficult to keep them under, next May and June. Many were not able to destroy them last year; they were in too close proximity to forests where they had full sway, and of course they let them have their own way and there could be no fruit. Those who took care of their fruit trees and sprayed, got well paid for their trouble. One of my neighbors here got over \$2,300.00 for his apples last fall, a goodly sum in these days for a farmer. In my small plot of one acre, we had one hundred

and ten barrels, ninety-five of these were sold at about an average of \$2.50 per barrel, realising some \$240 00, not so bad from one acre, was it, Mr. Editor? besides putting into the cellar 30 bushels of potatoes, 10 bushels of carrots, and about 35 bushels of turnips and mangels. There were cut 2 good crops of grass, the first crop over a ton, the second crop nearly a ton: but I am digressing. I would advise one and all to be vigilant during the winter and spring, and destroy as many as possible of the young larvæ, and hours now will be as good as days next summer, when you will have lots of other things to do. Spraying with the Bordeaux mixture has a good effect, but will not kill all the vermin. Without the addition of Paris-green, and even then, there are times when you cannot spray, i.e. when the blossoms are out. Still that does not prevent the young caterpillars from hatching out with the heat of old Sol. Some few fruit-growers paid no attention to the law, but sprayed their trees when in blossom. It seems too bad to be revenged on the poor innocent bees—by killing the caterpillars—but some few people are very short-sighted, and do not know the part the bees play in carrying the pollen from blossom to blossom in all kinds of fruit.

I cannot go fully into this subject here, as there would be enough of it to fill an article by itself. But to fruit-growers especially would I recommend them to spare the bees and birds as they are the two best friends they have, the one as I have already stated to carry the pollen, and the birds to destroy millions of insects, which would, in some cases, destroy great crops of the smaller fruits.

Be merciful therefore to your friends and spare them, it is better to lose some fruit by the birds than to kill the birds and have next to no fruit; as the millions of insects soon destroy the small fruits.

Wishing the readers of the JOURNAL a happy and prosperous new year and that these few lines may prove of some advantage in helping them to overcome those pests the tent-caterpillar, I am,

Yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

Chateaugay, 30th Dec. 1899.

