

because their trees die for lack of these precautions in the outset. Three years ago I signed an order from an agent travelling for a certain firm for thirteen four-year-old apple trees and 100 yearlings from the graft. I made the agent promise to make good any failures of the four-year-olds. When they came to hand I knew three of them would fail as soon as I saw them. They each had two or three bare tap roots, nothing on them to take up food for the tops. I cut them back well, set them in a moist rich soil, and they put out a few leaves on each, but died before the summer was half past. The yearlings all did well but two. The balance of the four-year-olds had passably good roots and are all doing well, and I have given them no special protection except the long manure mound, to keep back too early flow of sap in the Spring. The agent made good the failures, and I mention this to present the value of stipulating with agents to make up for failures, which they ought to do, providing you act well your part in caring for the tree. I am giving experience from an unfavorable locality for fruit-growing, on a piece of flat elm and cedar land, within three miles from the city of Ottawa, where the fruit-growing has a long winter to contend with and special difficulties to meet. I am testing in a small way, and without great outlay, apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots, grapes and all the other small fruits, hence, if I succeed, it will be from the application of such care and knowledge as any one can acquire who really has a taste and determination to grow fruit.

Many think that none but gentlemen with means abundant should engage in fruit-growing. This is a great mistake. If you possess a quarter of an acre of tillable land or more, you will be surprised how much delightful and profitable pastime and experience you can enjoy upon it. And as we are speaking about the means by which trees and plants are fed, we may say a word about the kind of food they ought to have. They ought to have rich nourishing food, but not *too* rich. That is, don't throw raw manure into the roots when you are setting out your trees. Give them rich friable loam, if you can get it, especially if your land is on the poor order. While setting your trees, shrubs or plants in the ground, have the thought uppermost in your mind how they are to *feed*, and this will prompt you to do many little things that nobody has ever told you to do. The interest you take will be an incentive to invention, just as a caterer to the public taste does many things peculiar to himself.

In setting out strawberries, don't set them in with a plunge of the spade or trowel, leaving the roots pressed together in a mass, as some do, but take the crown of the plant between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, and after stirring up the ground well with your trowel, spread the roots well with the three fingers of the left hand, make a narrow opening with the right hand in the loose dirt near your line, place the roots of your plant well spread into the opening, and press the dirt firmly down to the bottom of the