

and larvæ under it. Unfermented manure and ashes should be kept a few inches from the stock of the tree, otherwise they will have a tendency to injure the bark, and may ultimately kill it.

Before the winter sets in, all rubbish, such as decayed leaves, stubbles, &c., should be removed from about the trees, to prevent mice from nesting: but to make sure, the first few inches of snow, that is likely to lie, should be well trampled for at least a foot round each plant, as the mice travel the whole winter under the snow in search of food, and are apt to prey on the bark of young trees. One winter I neglected to trample a row next to a grass plot, and almost the whole, about twenty, were destroyed in this way, the bark being peeled completely round the stem, and the upward passage of the sap consequently cut off.

With regard to the soils most suitable for the Apple, I take the following from the *British American Cultivator*:—"The Apple will succeed in any soil, except a quick sand, or a cold clay, if the ground is kept under cultivation, and manured. Those soils that possess a very considerable degree of humidity, but are not absolutely wet, suit the Apple very well,—whereas they would be destructive to the Pear.

Hoping these few remarks may be of benefit to the community, I will conclude by remarking, that if the bark seems to be very much discolored by attacks of the Borer, and laying of their eggs, at any time, open the bark a little with the point of your knife; if they have been at work and cannot be found, pare away the dead bark: if any holes are made, plug them up with a piece of soap, and they will not trouble that place any more. If grafting wax is not at hand any time it is required, newly dropped cow-dung is a good substitute.

GEORGE BLAIR.

Dalhousie, October, 1850.

**CUT WORMS.**—These pests are most effectually destroyed at the north, by deeply plowing the fields, just as the winter is setting in. They have by this time settled into their snug winter quarters, far below the surface, and by throwing them upon or near the surface, where the pelting storms and severe frosts will catch them, when too much chilled to seek anew for a hiding place, large quantities of them will be destroyed.

Colonel Fluker, of Louisiana, says, for the cotton crop of that state, they are most effectually exterminated by plowing deep about the 1st of April, just before planting the cotton. In this way, millions have been destroyed, and his own fields have been saved from their ravages, while others around him have been greatly impaired by them.—*American Agriculturist*.

## THE GOOSEBERRY.

From the *Montreal Witness*.

In a late number you have a short article on the Gooseberry, which has reminded me of some remarks on that fruit which I have long intended to send you.

The great drawbacks to the cultivation of this delicious and very wholesome and useful fruit, are the mildew, and the heat of the Summer; which latter in some soils affect the bushes very much, as the English gooseberry is not suited to hot, dry Summers.

Some varieties stand the climate better, and are less liable to mildew than others. Mulching may also to a certain extent prove a benefit of both the evils. But more, in my opinion, depends on soil and aspect as regards the mildew, than on variety.

Having cultivated and paid considerable attention to gooseberries for eighteen years, I will give some of the results of my experience. At Windsor, where I first cultivated them, the fruit in one garden was perfectly free from mildew, while in another garden, at the opposite end of the house, it was usually more or less mildewed. For the first four years after I removed here, my gooseberries were not fit to eat, from excessive mildew; they were planted in a garden surrounded by a high, close board fence on three sides, and the house on the fourth. Having seen in an Ohio paper, that a gentleman there always had fine fruit by planting on the top of a knoll, or rising ground where they had a free circulation of air, I concluded that mine mildew ed from the want of a circulation of air, but having no rising ground near, I took up and planted my bushes outside my garden, on a piece of ground slightly elevated, but where there was nothing to obstruct the wind. The result has justified expectations, as, since then I have never had a mildewed gooseberry.

I raised about five hundred seedling gooseberries three years ago, the greater part of which came into bearing this season; these I planted out pretty closely on the opposite side of a garden walk from my old plantation, but the young shoots as well as berries, were in general badly mildewed. The soil is exactly the same where they are planted as where the others are, but the bed was bounded on one side by an asparagus bed and on another by a row of close planted currant bushes, which had grown to a large size, and were partly shaded by some large peach, plum and apple trees.—I have no doubt, therefore, the mildew on them was caused by the want of a sufficient circulation of air, and where it once begins, it spreads rapidly to all the bushes contiguous, though in this case it did not cross the walk, a distance of only eight feet. The shade of trees does not cause the mildew provided the limbs are high enough from the ground so as not to prevent a due circulation of air. As no rule can be given in what kind of soil or situation to plant, I would advise planting a few bushes in every different aspect of the garden, selecting as much as possible the most open and airy places; probably it will be found, if the garden is large, that in some place they would be free from mildew. In small low lying gardens, enclosed with high fences, and where many trees and tall growing vegetables are planted there would not be much probability of obtaining good fruit, unless the soil or climate is peculiarly adapted for it.

I am, however, in hopes that improved varieties of the wild gooseberry, indigenous to the country, or hybrids between these and the English, will take the place of the latter, and that eventually we may have as fine gooseberries as the English and perfectly adapted to the climate. In this part of the country there are