

To Protect Fruit from late Spring Frost.

Sir—Many expedients have been resorted to for the protection of fruit from the blighting influence of late frosts. Throwing a sheet over the tree, hanging iron upon it, kindling a fire under it, &c. have each been found to have a beneficial influence, but none have been more efficient than the experiment which I am about to describe.

My friend Major Ruff, who is a virtuoso, lately informed me that many years ago he saw it stated in a French Paper, that by throwing a hemp rope over the top of a fruit tree, when in bloom or near the time of blooming, and by letting its lower end touch the ground, the tree would be protected from the influence of frost. This I thought quite rational and philosophic—I accordingly made the experiment. To prove more fully the *modus operandi*, I took two dishes half filled with water, and set them a few feet distant, under the tree, on the night before an expected frost, the tree being nearly in full bloom. Throwing the rope over the top of the trees, I let the other end hang in the water of one of the dishes—the event proved the correctness of the theory. There was a hard frost on the morning of the 27th inst. and the dish into which the rope was deposited, contained ice of the thickness of a dollar, while that in the other dish was scarcely of the thickness of paper.

The philosophy of the above experiment is this: the rope which was previously wetted, was a conductor of heat; the air, and of course the limbs of the tree, became COLDER in the night than the earth—the rope conducted the heat from the earth to the tree, thus keeping up an equilibrium, and preserving the tree from frost.

As far as my observation extends, the critical time for fruit is long before it is in blossom; but it is nevertheless true, that severe and protracted cold at that time, or even later, will destroy the fruit. This was the case last year. The fruit was killed by severe frost after it had been formed.

There is not in my mind a doubt, that by attaching a rope to each tree of choice fruit, and thus letting it permanently remain through the winter and spring, that the fruit would be secured from the effects of frost.

To the incredulous and the supercilious who balance their grist all their lives with a big stone—who sufficiently wise, despise knowledge and instruction, the above may appear unworthy their attention. Let such be informed that it is not less philosophic than lightning rods attached to buildings to protect them from the influence of electricity—Let them be informed that

“There are more things in Heaven and Earth
Than their philosophy has ever dreamed of.”