

flavor and perfect hardiness, standing the winter in a most exposed position without any protection; like the grapes, they are distinguished by numbers, some of which are described below.

No. 1. White, berry large, good flavor, very strong grower, and productive on poor soil.

No. 2. Berry red, large, good flavor, enormously productive, ripening two crops in the season, one in July the other in September; the plants are now, September the 26th, literally loaded down with ripe and unripe fruit.

There are several other varieties of different flavor and shades of color, very promising, and all perfectly hardy, and having stood our winters on an exposed knoll without the slightest protection, many of the varieties being equal in flavor and size to the white Antwerp.

N. HAMILTON, } Committee consisting
J. W. ACRES, } of President, Vice Pre-
HENRY HART, } sident, and Secretary.

A dressing of bone dust late in the fall is highly beneficial to lawns. It may be applied at the rate of a ton to the acre. Plaster should be sown at the same time, at the rate of two bushels to the acre. This will give a rich, luxuriant growth the following spring.

HARTFORD PROLIFIC GRAPE.—The *Horticulturist* says that this variety does better on clay than on sandy or gravelly soils. On clay soils, its branches are larger and more compact, and it colors and ripens earlier than when grown on sand. This opinion is based on two successive years' observations and comparison.

STRAW-BANDS FOR FRUIT-TREES.—This old-fashioned method of protecting the bodies of fruit trees is coming into vogue again. It is, doubtless, the next best thing to natural protection, namely, the branches and foliage. We believe it is a mistake in this climate to trim up the bodies of young trees as our nursery men do. But if they must denude the trees in this manner, straw bands will help to make up the deficiency, albeit they are not by any means ornamental, especially as a protection from the hot sun in summer.

LIME FOR STRAWBERRIES.—A "subscriber" writes:—"Can you inform me whether lime would be injurious to the Strawberry plant? I have half an acre well manured and ploughed, ready for planting with Strawberries in the spring, and if you or any of your readers would give the desired information, you will oblige."

Ans.—We should suppose, that in moderate quantity and well mixed with other manure, muck or mould, lime would be found useful for this as well as other crops; though the author of the *Small Fruit Culturist* informs us that "lime is said to be injurious to the strawberry, especially if applied directly or alone." The writer acknowledges, however, that he has no personal experience in the matter.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANTING.—William Shoecraft, of Prescott, Ontario, writes:—"Will you please inform me of the proper time of the year to plant horse-chestnuts, and also the proper time to transplant evergreens, such as pines, cedars, and balsams, those that grow in our woods around."

Ans.—We presume our correspondent refers to the seeds of the horse-chestnut. If so, the fall of the year is the best time to plant them. As to transplanting evergreens, there are diversities of opinion and practice. Some advocate the early spring, others the fall, and others still the month of August. Transplanting evergreens from the woods is a precarious business at any time, but we have had the best success in the spring.

The Apiary.

A Peep at the Editor's Bees.

BEISO in Guelph on a visit, feeling some interest in bees, and knowing that the Editor of the CANADA FARMER had some, that he was well up in their management, and that he could afford me any information about them which I might require, I went with a friend to see his apiary, and to learn something about bee-keeping. I was not disappointed in my visit, but greatly entertained by it, and received a great deal of information regarding that truly wonderful insect, "the little busy bee." I was fortunate in my

visit because Mr. Clarke had that day several wonderful things to perform amongst his bees things which I supposed could not be done until I saw them really accomplished. Before going amongst the bees we had our heads and faces covered with nets or veils, and our hands encased in gloves, that we might feel confident and not have to flee in the midst of some important work, if they should think fit to attack us. Mr. Clarke seems to be able to do what he pleases with his bees. He has a great convenience in this respect on account of the hives which he employs. They are wooden hives, with frames in the inside, on which the combs are built. These frames can be lifted out at any time, and all the combs and cells minutely examined. The hives are made by Mr. J. H. Thomas, of Brooklin, Ontario, and patented. If people really do wish to know anything about bees, and to succeed with them, it seems that they should have these hives, or others made on a similar principle. Mr. Clarke, at the time of our visit, was making a change amongst his bees. He was Italianizing them, that is, introducing Italian queens into his apiary. His reason for doing so is, that they are better workers than the bees we have hitherto had in Canada. They can obtain honey from many flowers which the other bees cannot penetrate. It is said they can find their way into red clover, which grows so abundantly, and which contains so much honey, as every one knows, and this the other bees cannot do. This of itself would be a sufficient reason for introducing the Italian bees. The way this introduction of different bees is brought about, is this. An Italian queen is procured, and the hive to be Italianized searched for the queen which it contains, and she is removed and destroyed, if you have no need for her in any other place. The Italian queen is then introduced, and as the queen is the mother of all the bees, the hive eventually becomes filled with the new kind. This is brought about much sooner than we might suppose, as many of the bees are lost, and killed by storms when out gathering honey, and the bee is not by any means a long-lived insect, so a continual increase requires to be going on in the hive to keep up the stock, and in this way the whole hive soon becomes changed. I saw some hives into which an Italian queen had been introduced lately, and they have been more than half filled with the new kind of bees. They are of a lighter color, banded with yellow, and may easily be distinguished from the other bees.

Now that Mr. Clarke has got some Italian bees, he raises his own queens, and in this way will be enabled soon to change his whole stock. He takes one of the hives into which an Italian queen has been introduced, and removes the queen from it, but before doing so he assures himself that there is plenty of brood in this hive, from which a new queen may be raised. The bees finding themselves without a queen, immediately set about providing themselves with one. This they can easily do if there are worker eggs in the hive, because a queen is just an ordinary worker bee that has been subjected to different treatment in her development. She is nursed in a larger cell, and fed upon different food from the other young bees. In order that the bees may not be defeated in their purpose, they will sometimes leave six or seven queen cells in one hive, and nurse queens in them all. I saw one hive in which there were seven queen cells. They must be of Scotch descent when they have so much caution about them. When the bees have succeeded in hatching one queen they allow her to put the others to death. But these queens may be secured if they are taken in time, before they are fully hatched, and cut out of the comb in which they are placed, and ingrafted into another comb, in a new hive from which the queen has been removed. I saw this done in two or three instances, and was told that there was very little danger of its failing. The hives into which this embryo queen has been introduced had to be examined shortly after, to see that the young queen was succeeding, so that the bees might not be left without a queen altogether; and if this should take place, they had only to be supplied with another in the same way. All these operations were performed upon the bees without the least difficulty, and without ever receiving a single sting from them. These things are performed with such ease, partly on account of the hives which are used, which give ready access to the bees, and partly because before proceeding to work amongst the bees, they were slightly smoked. This has the effect of subduing them, and making them more easily handled. When the smoke is blown in amongst them, they seem to think that

the hive is going to be robbed, and they immediately fill themselves with honey, and this renders them less disposed to use their stings. But with Thomas's patent hives, and the head and hands protected, anything may be done with the bees without smoking them at all.

Bee-keeping seems to be well worthy the attention of all who have but little business to attend to, and is especially suited to clergymen, who require some out-door exercise, and to whom such exercise as looking after bees would be very beneficial. It is not too violent to unfit them for their studies, and it is sufficiently active to invigorate them, and sufficiently interesting to lead them to follow it out, if they would only seek to acquire a taste for it. Bee-keeping is certainly a most interesting thing, whether profitable or not, but there is also profit in it, sufficient to repay any one for their time and trouble.

AN INTENDING APIARIAN.

ALMA, 17th September, 1867.

Caution to Bee-Keepers.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—There are persons travelling through the western counties, selling what they call "a bee-charm," which they say will enable a person to drive out the bees from a hive, which may then be cleaned and the bees returned again. In some cases they drive the bees, clean the hive, and give a bottle of the charm for the small sum of five dollars! Allow me to say that such are swindlers, and should at once be brought before the authorities for obtaining money on false pretences. Hives require no cleaning when bees are in them except in the spring, when the bottom boards should be cleaned of all dead bees. The so-called bee-charm is purely a Yankee humbug, and worth no more than the same amount of cold water. Doubtless some unprincipled fellow has been over to the Michigan or New York State Fair, and seeing Flanders, of Ohio, and Kidder, of Vermont, gulling the people by selling a bee-charm, has concluded to try the dodge on Canadian bee-keepers. I hope, however, Canadian bee-keepers will not be so foolish as to part with their money for that which is utterly worthless, nor allow such unprincipled characters to meddle with their bees.

J. H. THOMAS.

Brooklin, Ontario, Oct. 14th, 1867.

Advertisements.

GREAT SALE OF PURE-BRED STOCK.

FIFTY-TWO head of superior Short Horn Cattle a large lot of Berkshire Swine and other stock, will be sold

At PUBLIC AUCTION,

At Harristown Station, 4 or 5 miles west of De Catur, Macon Co., Ill.

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1867.

Sale positive. Catalogue will be furnished on application to

J. H. MCGRILL,

Administrator of James M. Hall, deceased.

Address Harristown, Ill.

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PREMIUM CHESTER WHITE PIGS.

BRED AND FOR SALE BY

GEO. B. HICKMAN,

West Chester, Chester Co., Pennsylvania.

Send for Circular and Price List

September 29, 1867

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ONTARIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Grand Show of Poultry and Pigeons (298 pens),

At the AGRICULTURAL HALL, Toronto, corner of Queen and Yonge Sts., on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 6th and 7th.

ADMISSION, 10 CENTS.

4-21-11

F. A. HARRIS, Hon. Sec.

Duncan's Improved Hay Elevator.

PATENTED April 13th, 1867.

The cheapest and simplest constructed Fork in use in the Dominion of Canada. County or Township Rights for the manufacture of the above Fork may be obtained from the undersigned.

JAMES W. MANN,

Port Dover, Ont.

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