

* Open Letters. *

A REMARKABLE PLUM.

SIR,—I am not an aspirant for fame, present or posthumous, but I have the largest plum tree I ever saw in any country in which I have travelled. It is fifteen years old and has never had the black knot in the smallest degree, while many varieties surrounding it have been badly mutilated each year on account of the knot. The plum is a seedling. The fruit is like the Green Imperial in appearance and very excellent either for table or for canning. It was so loaded this year that it was a curiosity to all visitors. The crop was estimated at from six to ten bushels. The branches were very fine, mostly the size of a pipe stem and all weeping. Even the larger branches had to perform the same ceremony out of sympathy, so that the tree formed a perfect weeping tree. The curculio does not damage this variety as much as the others, indeed I failed to notice any ravages by this insect this year. The tree is a good bearer, though never before has done so well as this season. The chief defect is the quantity of sprouts which come up all about the trunk.

I would very much like to discover a Russian apple that would thrive in the North-West, besides the Siberians. The Duchess of Oldenburg will grow and flourish up to the end of Lake Superior, but I think not beyond.

CHAS. JARVIS, *Brantford, Ont.*

NOTE.—Our friends who are desirous of discovering some hardy apple that will flourish in the North-West, should give a fair trial to the Gipsy Girl, and the other Russian kinds, which are upon our list for distribution for the spring of 1892.

FRUIT INSPECTION.

SIR,—I realized 50 cents more per barrel for Fameuse shipped to Scotland than I could get in Montreal (\$2 25 net).

I am in hearty sympathy with Mr. A. H. Pettit, regarding a system of fruit inspection, if a practicable plan could be devised. It would be a slow process to examine twenty, or thirty thousand barrels of apples that leave our port every week. I had occasion to be in one of our leading commission houses last season when a lady came in with some small wild apples she had found in the middle of a barrel of Kings! All the commission merchant could do was to hand her back 50 cents, with strong language against the fruit grower who sent the apples, who also was docked 50 cents on each barrel. I asked him why he did not write the fruit grower about the matter. He answered, "I cannot kick, he sends me such lots of berries."

I always make a practice of branding my name upon the barrels, but we do not get the credit. For instance, I had occasion to load a car of onions for one of our leading commission houses. They had their man scraping off my name and putting on theirs. "Of course they are not going to pay to advertise another man's business."

What about a Dominion Fruit Growers' Convention this season?

R. BRODIE, *Montreal, Que.*

THE CRANDALL.

SIR,—Last spring I purchased some plants of the "Crandall Black Currant" from a nurseryman in whose catalogue it was lengthily described as a most desirable novelty. Of course, they have not yet fruited with me, but the foliage and habit of growth is so exactly similar to that of a large bush of the old established yellow flowering currant (*Ribes aureum præcox*), growing in my garden, that I am getting suspicious that this vaunted "novelty" may be none other than our old friend under a new name. If so, it is worthless as a fruit producer, as a few scattered berries, single or in pairs, is all that my old bush produces. I think it well to ventilate this subject in your pages for the consideration of others before the next planting season arrives.

ARTHUR GEO. HEAVEN, *Boyme, Ont.*