

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

TRANSCENDANTS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

A farmer writes from Meeker County, Minn., to the *Farmers' Union* :—

A vigorous and persistent effort has been made by certain nurserymen to drive this crab from our list of valuable apples. While it is objectionable on account of its being liable to blight, I venture the assertion that no other apple has so much reason to boast over the returns it has made those cultivating it. It is the pioneer apple. It is the earliest and most prolific, and ever since its introduction there has been no other apple to compete with it in our markets, unless it is within the past few years, in the south-eastern part of the States. Last fall I stood for some time watching the market in Minneapolis. There were some Hyslops, and now and then a basket of some other variety, but the great bulk of apples brought to market were Transcendants. And this is especially true of this whole region west of Minneapolis. There are some Hyslops, a few Duchess, and now and then an Early Strawberry, but the Transcendants fill the markets. Of all the varieties set in my grounds ten years ago, the Transcendants have given the earliest and best returns. It is only within the past three years that the Early Strawberry has been profitable, and last year was the first harvest from Minnesota trees set at the same time with the Transcendants.

A few years since one of my neighbours invited me to look at his trees. When we reached his place he led me to the only Transcendant he had, and said: "That is the only tree that is good for anything on my place. It is the only one that grows thriftily and bears apples, and I want you to set me forty more just like it." And I did, and it is a thrifty, fruitful orchard, and has shown no blight yet. And I often find it difficult to persuade men to take any other kind of trees; "they want that kind that grows the best." Often the only trees that give full satisfaction in a bill of trees sold are the Transcendants. I have not been troubled with the blight until last year. Among my orchard trees the Transcendants were affected as little as any other variety. Some of my largest and finest Transcendants were not touched, while I do not think a single Early Strawberry—which is not regarded as subject to blight—escaped untouched. In the nursery rows the Transcendants suffered the most of any, and this I conceive to be the real ground of objection to the Transcendant on the part of nurserymen. But by all means let this apple fill its place as a pioneer, and it will pay for itself many times over before it must give place to others.

HOW TO GROW THE CAULIFLOWER.

I have been successful in raising cauliflower, and as there appears to be a want of success—so far as I am acquainted—I will give you my method of cultivation. I sow my seed in the open air at the same time I do for cabbage. I am not anxious to raise hot-bed plants, or even early plants, for I find they do not do as well in our long hot seasons as later ones. From the 20th to the 30th of May is early enough for our latitude (New York) and our deep, rich sandy soil. On the 10th of June, 1870, I spaded up a bed of the Wilson strawberry, which had just yielded its last picking of fruit, burying the tops deep in the soil, and the same day set out the ground with cauliflower. They did well, forming fine curd-like heads of fair size. Last season I set my plants on the 25th of May, and although the season was one of long and continuous drouth, they did well, nearly all forming handsome heads,

some of which were very large. One head, out short as it could be and closely trimmed, weighed twenty-eight pounds. These plants were set between the rows of early potatoes. The potatoes were dug in June, then they had the ground all to themselves. I set the plants about four feet apart each way, and about one foot below the surface of the ground, in rich soil, with a liberal supply of ashes mixed through it. Stir the ground often, drawing the mellow soil around the plant. If the plants do well they will completely cover the ground. In the heat of summer I mulch with green grass or weeds—never water, but sometimes flood them well with soap-suds. In this way I generally get very fine heads.—*Fruit Recorder*.

A NEGLECTED VINE.

One who has such a vine, and cuts it now, will find it bleeds abundantly, and whether, as some contend, this is of no injury, it is a great nuisance, which it is desirable to avoid. As no one neglected vine will be like any other, we can only give the most general directions. One standing before such a vine will find it to be made up of old and new stems, the new ones distinguished by their smaller size, brighter appearance, and prominent, if not already started buds. One general principle must be borne in mind. The growth—the shoots—that come from these buds, and this only, will bear fruit. When the shoots are but a few inches long, the little clusters of fruit buds may be seen. To treat such a vine one must imagine that wherever a bud is now, there will in a few weeks be shoots several feet long. Every old vine is likely to show vastly more buds than ought to grow. As a general rule, we may say, take every last year's cane and break off all but the lowest two of these buds, and when the leaves of these have expanded, cut away the rest of the cane, no matter how long it may be. These two lower buds on each cane will give all the foliage and fruit—probably more—than will be needed. Do this all over the vine, recollecting that the shoot from each bud will produce by autumn just such a cane as now bears them.

HOW TO GET EARLY SWEET CORN.

Says the *Germantown Telegraph*: Judge Miller, of Missouri, being on a visit some time ago, mentioned to us a fact discovered by himself, in which a full week can be gained in getting sweet corn for boiling. He said it was, that as soon as the ear is formed, break the top down or cut it off, but leave the stalk erect in order that the pollen of the tassel will be sure to dust the silk of the ears, as they may not be fully impregnated should the stalks be topped. He stated that he had experimented for years, and was entirely satisfied that it is uniformly practical and of value. In fact he thinks that the ear becomes more fully developed also. This is a hint easy to adopt, and may be of interest to tuckers as well as for the private garden.

A CURCULIO REMEDY.

The best remedy I have found for driving this destructive enemy from plum trees while the fruit is young and tender, is turpentine either alone or with aromatic substances. Gum camphor dissolved in this mordant alone will produce a very strong odour not relished by any insect, and if any of the essential oils are added, such as peppermint, pennyroyal, sassafras, etc., it becomes intolerable to all insects for quite a distance in proportion to the amount used. Turpentine poured upon the buds of the "balm of Gilead," so called, will also prove effectual in driving insect life away. My mode of applying these remedies

is to saturate cotton twice or three times a week from the time the fruit is formed until it is about half grown, and hang it in the trees; to prevent any dropping upon the limbs, the cotton may be put in old fruit cans. If the trees are large, take a long string, tie a small stone to one end and throw it over one of the upper limbs; with both ends of the string in your hand you can replenish the cotton, and adjust the height at will without the least trouble.—*Fruit Recorder*.

ARTICHOKES.

It is a difficult matter to get the tubers all out of the ground, which fact has led many to fear that if once started on the farm they would take possession, and could not be got rid of. Put them in some out-of-the-way corner, and you will not want to get rid of them. In case you do, make a hog lot of the patch, and mow them in August. Last July or August part of mine were mowed by mistake, my hired man thinking they were weeds. On the quarter of an acre mowed not a sprout has appeared, and I dug to see if there were any tubers, and could find not one. A good way to plant is to have a boy or a man follow the plough and drop the tubers three feet apart in each third furrow, then cultivate as corn. The second year, though to all appearances these artichokes may be rooted out, they will come up thick. When well up, plough rows with cultivator to thin, and cultivate a time or two as before.

WALNUT TREES SHOULD NOT BE TRANSPLANTED.

A correspondent of the *Detroit Free Press*, agent the undertaking of a man in Michigan to reset 1,000 black walnut trees for commercial purposes, says that they cannot be transplanted and retain their vigour. They should be grown from the nuts. He has made experiments by both transplanting and raising from the seed, which has convinced him that the latter is much the preferable way.

One of the best remedies for the currant and gooseberry worm is to sprinkle the bushes with a strong solution of copperas water, using a gallon of water to a quarter of a pound of copperas, and applying it from a watering-pot, a single application killing the worms as "dead as a door nail."

MILAN W. HOPSON, a small market gardener of Fort Atkinson, Wis., saved all his cabbage last year by the use of fine middlings. Sift the middlings on when the plants are damp and wet, so that the middlings will adhere to the leaves. The middlings are not poison, but the worms eating of them are destroyed by indigestion.

It is said that if a cucumber vine is trained to run up a stake on which a few stubs of limbs have been left along its whole length, the crop will be enormous. By this plan the vines not only occupy less space, but are afforded opportunity to follow their natural habit of climbing up, instead of running on the ground.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* says: "Pulverized fresh lime will effectually drive earthworms from lawns. The lime also kills moss, which is so troublesome on old lawns, often destroying large patches of grass, and so sadly interfering with mowing. Mix the lime with twice its bulk of fine soil. Leached wood ashes we have found better than soil for mixing with lime."

GOD ALMIGHTY first planted a garden, and indeed it is the purest of all human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment of the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks, and man shall ever see that when ages grow to civility and elegance, men come to build stately sooner than to garden finely, as if gardening were the greatest perfection.