

### Wintering Plants.

ONE reason why choice and tender plants are not more extensively grown, is the difficulty of keeping them through the winter in this cold climate. If our houses were provided with double windows, as they ought to be, there would be far less trouble in keeping plants in-doors than there is, but with single windows, there are few if any dwellings impervious to frost. An exchange recommends the construction of a frost-proof pit, and says:—"This may be easily done by making an excavation four or five feet deep, that will be large enough to contain all the plants on hand and a good many more. This pit should be lined with boards, which should project about two feet above the surface and be banked and roofed like a hot-bed. The excavation should be perfectly drained; without this advantage it will be utterly useless. In places where drainage to a sufficient depth cannot be effected, the pit must be constructed so far above ground as will keep it dry. The pit may be constructed on the plan of an ice-house—a double row of posts and boards, the interstices being well packed with saw-dust. Light is essential, and in admitting it, caution will be necessary, as glass will admit frost. The best plan is to cover the glass with closely jointed boards, a space being left between the glass and the boards, which should be packed with hay or straw in very severe weather. The covering should be removed occasionally and air admitted. This may be done about noon on fine, mild days. In this pit a large number of half hardy plants and flowers may be safely kept during the winter."

### Grape-Growing in Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In looking over the columns of the last CANADA FARMER I was much pleased to observe an article on the "Clair House Vineyard." It is highly gratifying to many of your readers in the "far west" to notice that the attention of the agriculturists of Canada is at last being directed to this subject. Being deeply interested in the cultivation of the vine (having, with a number of others, embarked in the enterprise this spring), any information on this subject is received with the greatest satisfaction.

It has long been a subject of surprise to persons from Northern Ohio who have visited this shore that, with the evidences of the success of grape culture, as it were, at our very doors, and with our fine land and genial climate, we should so long have hesitated about investing in an enterprise which has not in any one instance failed to surpass the most sanguine expectations.

We are situated on the north shore of Lake Erie, about 25 or 30 miles north of the far-famed Kelley's Put-in-Bay, North Bass, Middle Bass, and other islands of grape-growing celebrity. And although they may claim a small advantage over us in regard to the early frosts, still it is admitted by all who are acquainted with our climate, that it is sufficiently mild for the successful cultivation of most of the early varieties, such as Delawares, Concords, Hartford Prolifics, &c. Even Catawbias and Isabellas, where they have had the least advantage of a proper cultivation, have established the fact beyond a doubt that, when properly managed, they are capable of being cultivated with success. I have a few vines of Isabellas and Catawbias in bearing this year for the first time, and they are so far matured already, and are bearing such an abundant crop, that I have been assured by competent judges, that these varieties can be cultivated here with equal success as in any part of Northern Ohio or the islands. My next neighbor has a Concord vine which was examined a few days since by a gentleman from the islands, and he assured me that he never saw a better show of fruit in his life, although the mode of cultivation it has had has been highly

prejudicial to its bearing. The mode of planting and pruning adopted by the grape-growers of Ohio, is widely different from that reported in your paper.



They generally plant 6 x 8 feet, and train 3 or 4 canes of bearing wood about 5½ or 6 feet high. But the produce per acre as stated by you, far exceeds anything



ever heard of here. C. J. Parsons, of Sandusky, Ohio, last fall offered a prize for the largest amount of grapes per acre, and it was awarded to Lorenzo Mil-

ler of Put-in-Bay Island, he having raised eight tons to the acre. Now you speak of 15 to 25 tons produced by Mr. DeCourteney, which seems well nigh incredible even to us who have been accustomed to hear almost fabulous accounts of grape growing for years past.

I have been told by a friend who visited the Clair House Vineyard last summer, that the Clinton is the variety grown by Mr. De Courteney. This may account for the difference of the amount produced per acre, as the Catawba and Isabella are the staple article of cultivation in Ohio. They look upon the Clinton as a very inferior grape—so much so that they will not raise it on any account. It is, therefore for the purpose of gaining all the information possible on this subject that I have ventured to address you, hoping that it may be the means of bringing the knowledge and experience of the grape growers of Canada before the public through the medium of your excellent paper.

We have adopted the mode of culture in operation on the Islands, but as there is a prospect that there will be a large amount of grapes planted next spring, it would be a great benefit to those about to embark in the business, to hear the different modes discussed by those who have had experience as vine growers in Canada. We have planted several varieties—Delaware, Concord, Hartford Prolific, Oporto, Catawba, Isabella, Diana, and Clinton, but it would be greatly to our advantage as new beginners to be able to know the best kind for our soil and climate.

A company of gentlemen from Kentucky, who have been in the business for fourteen years, have purchased a farm on Pellico Island (fifteen miles south of us) and planted 30 acres this spring, and intend to plant 20 more next spring. A considerable extent of land has been planted by others on the same Island, and there is every reason to believe that ere long this profitable branch of agriculture will be regarded by the people here as a matter of great importance. The history of the Clair House Vineyard, mentioned in your paper as forthcoming soon, will be hailed with delight by your readers in this part of the country. CONCORD.

Kingsville, Essex, Sept. 12, 1866.

A gigantic melon was sold the other day at La Halle Centrale, in Paris, the largest that has been heard of in the memory of man. It weighed no less than 72 lbs., and was grown in a garden at St. Denis.

THE ROSE TRADE IN FRANCE.—The trade in roses, as is well known, is of considerable importance in France. Rose trees are cultivated in different parts of the country in open fields, just as turnips or cabbages. Thus, there are 500,000 rose trees near Orleans, 200,000 near Metz, 1,000,000 near Angers, 1,500,000 near Lyons, 2,000,000 near Paris, and 5,000,000 in the 13 communes of Brie-Comte-Robert. The varieties called Rose-Tho, the Bourbon, and Mous-sense flourish in the environs of Paris and Orleans.

CARE OF TENDER PLANTS.—Many beautiful plants that are safely bedded out in the spring, and prove ornaments to the flower-plot all summer, will be utterly destroyed if left in the open ground during winter. A good plan is to pot them and keep them in the house during frosty weather. In taking them up care should be taken to preserve the roots as much as possible, and they should be either stripped of a portion of their leaves, or shortened in, to compensate for the disturbance to which they are subjected. It is best to use pots just large enough, that after they have commenced to grow they may be shifted into larger ones, and have the stimulus of fresh soil to promote their further growth. After potting they should be put into a shady place, and the earth well soaked with water. Many plants if well treated, will give quite a profusion of flowers during late winter and early spring, and as the time comes round make splendid objects for summer decoration again.