



## Experiments in Grape Culture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—It is generally known that if a man plants an apple or pear orchard, and, when come to bearing, finds the fruit worthless or undesirable, it is quite a simple thing to renovate it by grafting with the best kinds known to pomologists. This is equally true of a vineyard. I have for years made attempts, both by budding and grafting, to improve some old stocks, but with uniform failure. It was not till I saw how, in California, they transferred whole vineyards from the old Mission grape to Muscats and Hamburgs, that I understood the method myself. Being in Canada again last spring, I determined to try my hand on some eight year old Isabellas that I wanted to improve. I began by cutting off every other one in a row until I had cut off 15, which bled profusely, as it was performed in the middle of April. I cut the heads off about two inches under the surface of the ground, cleft the stock exactly as I would an apple limb, and inserted two scions having only one eye each. I could afford no more; and if the eyes are sound you will need no more, since there will be in all probability two good canes for each stock if both scions take, and one will be sufficient to establish the vine if they do not. Having fitted the scions neatly, and with as long a tongue as the nature of the cleft would permit, for some of them split very badly, I covered the whole wound with a liquid grafting wax that sticks very close, returned the earth, covering the scion till it almost disappeared, and then left them to their fate. Five of the 15 grew finely, making shoots as long as the old vines on the same trellis; and while this percentage may appear discouragingly small, I may say that it was not a fair test, for out of seven Cayahogas only one took, the buds having been winter-killed. I then took up 12 vines, Clintons, Isabellas, and Catawbas, of the same age as the former, and planted them in a row; two or three weeks after, I cut them off and grafted them all with Delaware; 11 out of the 12 grew finely, two making quite sizable bunches of fruit. That I considered quite a pleasing success, and was so gratified that I would not have taken \$100 for my row of Delawares. But the culminating point of my success was the following:—I had just received from Ellwanger & Barry, among others, an Iona, at the price of two dollars, about the size of a good large timothy stalk. After planting it I observed that it had one eye just above the surface and another about three inches above that; I stood for awhile looking at it, and reflecting on the felicity of paying \$2.00 apiece for such specimens, as well as on the statement of some disappointed purchaser, that, after you had paid the price, you needed the affidavit of some reliable nurseryman to be satisfied that they were grapevines at all; and filled with such ideas, I seized my knife and remorselessly severed the top joint, thereby diminishing the chances of its growing very considerably. I immediately inserted it into a stock similar to those before mentioned, but growing in the nursery bed where it had been planted as a cutting. On examining my precious scion, I discovered that the eye had been rubbed out; but knowing that vine buds are generally double, though I had not eyes enough myself to see the secondary eye of the scion, I had faith to believe it was there; so I fluted it in, and to my great satisfaction it grew surprisingly, in spite of the profuse bleeding of the stock. The secondary eye, that could not be seen, shot forth no less than seven canes of good size, 6 of which I appropriated for the purpose of grafting, and left the other to fruit next summer, which I confidently expect it to do, since it is a good half-inch

thick. When the scarcity and value of Iona wood and plants are considered, the success I experienced may be believed to have been very gratifying, and I am very willing for other lovers of horticulture to experience the like gratification, and hence endeavour to make it known. I should observe that I attribute my success with the Delawares to the fact that, the vines having just been transplanted, the capillary attraction of the roots was checked, so that on being cut off they did not bleed in the least; for there is no doubt that the abundant flow of sap from the root is the cause of many scions failing. It is the practice of some to merely cover the grafts up with earth and to apply no composition, but I think the plan very reprehensible, for the cleft stock cannot but absorb a great amount of water, and thus carry canker and rot into the root, though the tenacity of life of the vine may cause it to survive the slovenly treatment.

AMPELOS.

Vine Hill, near Dundas, March 8, 1867.

## Dwarf Trees.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—Those who wish to plant fruit trees for profit only, should not plant dwarf trees at all; and for this reason, that many fruit growers, without, as we think, good cause, are refusing the dwarf trees altogether. The planting of dwarf trees in the garden around the house, or in the lawn, is very desirable. There is, perhaps, nothing more attractive and more beautiful around a house than a plot of ground dotted over with evergreens, dwarf trees, shrubs, &c.; but when dwarfs are planted for this purpose they are often a failure for want of proper treatment. It should be distinctly understood that dwarf trees require the best of cultivation.

When they are planted in the lawn the planting should be well done. If the soil is a heavy clay, a bushel or two of vegetable mould from the woods, or elsewhere, around the roots of each tree will be found of great benefit; no grass or weeds should be allowed to grow nearer than three feet of the trunk; they should have a good top dressing of well-rotted manure every year; it is best applied in the fall. Fresh or strong manure should always be avoided.

In the heat of summer a mulch of green grass, weeds, or cut straw will help to keep down the weeds and grass, and will greatly benefit the trees. It should be put about two or three inches thick. The heads should be started higher than is usual, for when started too low it is more difficult to cultivate them, and the heavy snows that we sometimes have are apt to split off the under limbs. They should, for this reason, have a trunk from ten to twelve inches high. The heads may be left somewhat thicker than standard trees, and should be pruned so as to make the heads evenly balanced and round shaped. Some varieties of dwarf pears are best grown in a pyramidal shape. All rampant shoots should be kept pinched back in the summer. Those planting the pear should, if possible, get those kinds that succeed well in the neighbourhood where they are planting; for varieties that flourish well in one part of the country often prove a failure when planted in another location. Large showy kinds of fruit are the most desirable for dwarfs.

S. H. M.

St. Mary's C.W., Feb. 20, 1867.

## A Vote on Grapes.

In addition to the Report, recently given in this paper, of the proceedings of the Fruit Growers' Society at Rochester, we copy the following synopsis from the *Rural New Yorker*, of the vote taken on the best twelve varieties of grapes:

The vote for the best twelve varieties of grapes was then taken—twelve names being voted on one ballot. Thirty-eight votes were cast, with the following results: Whole number, 38; Diana, 38; Delaware, 37; Concord, 33; Iona, 31; Creveling, 30; Adirondac, 26; Israella, 26; Rogers' No. 4, 22; Isabella, 23; Rebecca, 26; Hartford Prolific, 27; Catawba, 13; Rogers' No. 19, 15; Union Village, 7; Clinton, 7; Allen's Hybrid, 6; Ives' Seedling, 2; To Kalon, Rogers 44, Rogers 39, Perkins, Maxatawny, Norton's Seedling, Coriella and Cayahoga, one each.

It was understood that those placed first on the ballot were regarded as the best, giving the following results:

The following grapes were at the head of the list, in the order named: Delaware, 25; Iona, 7; Creveling, 1; Adirondac, 1; Isabella, 2; Catawba, 1.

The following stood second on the list, in the order named: Delaware, 7; Diana, 10; Creveling, 3; Iona, 7; Isabella, 6; Adirondac, 1; Concord, 1; Israella, 1; Hartford Prolific, 2.

AN EVERGREEN.—A man who does not learn by experience.

A writer in the *New England Farmer* says that when tomatoes are growing near an apple tree the borers will not trouble the tree. He plants tomatoes by the trees to prevent them.

ARABIAN COURTSHIP.—An Arabian having brought a blush to a maiden's cheek by the earnestness of his gaze, said to her, "My looks have planted roses in your cheeks; why forbid me to gather them? The law permits him who sows to reap a harvest."

CUTTING SCIONS.—As the time approaches when it may be convenient to cut scions, we would endorse the practice of an experienced grafter, who informs us that the best way to keep them till wanted, is to stick the ends into a potato. This will prevent their drying up. Care should be taken to label them, and they should be kept in a dry place in the cellar.

The modern fashion of naming florist's flowers must be held responsible for the very dubious paragraph extracted from a gardening paper:—"Mrs. Legge will be looked after, she may not be so certain as some, but she was nevertheless very fine in the early part of the season. Lady Popham is useful, one of the old-fashioned build, not quite round in the outline, but makes up well."

HOW TO PLANT WATERMELONS.—W. S. Carpenter told how to plant watermelons at a recent meeting of the Institute Club. Dig a hole two and a half feet deep and three feet across. Fill to within six inches of the surface with green stable manure, and then add good soil so as to make a hill six inches high and plant from ten to twelve feet apart. Good melons and a fine yield may be looked for by pursuing this plan of planting.

JAPANESE MAIZE.—Is not only a valuable acquisition for table use, but is also described as being highly ornamental, growing to a height of from five to six feet, and has its foliage alternately opposite; the foliage is from two to three inches wide, and is about four feet in length. The variegation begins to show when the plant is four inches high, and in a short time it is beautifully and evenly striped with alternate stripes of green and white, and in its earlier stages of growth is striped with rose colour. Nothing, it is said, in the way of a foliage plant can exceed in gracefulness and beauty a group of those plants; culture similar to corn.—*Morris' Practical Farmer*.

## Poetry.

### Poor.

What! poor, you say—Why, save you, friend,  
I've more than half the world can show.  
Such wealth as mine you cannot boast,  
Such bliss as mine you cannot know.  
I've more than keenest head can sum,  
Could ever dream of night or day—  
I've treasures hid from sordid greed,  
No cunning thief can take away.

My riches never bring distrust  
Between me and my fellow-men;  
No evil passion stirs my breast,  
To yield me hate for hate again.  
But pleasure, peace, and joy they bring,  
They soothe my cares, they make me glad,  
They give delights I cannot name,  
And buy me comfort when I'm sad.

Come here, and open wide your eyes;  
You see earth's glory at my feet,  
You see the sky above my head.  
The sunshine on my garden seat;  
You see the love that lights my home,  
The children round my cottage door—  
The birds, the bees, the grass and flowers,  
And you have dared to call me poor!

Come here, and open wide your ears,  
And hark the music morning makes,  
When from the hills and from the woods  
Her high and holy anthem breaks.  
Come here, and catch the grand old songs  
That nature sings me o'er and o'er—  
The whisperings of a thousand things,  
And tell me, tell me, am I poor?

Not rich is he, though wider far  
His acres stretch than eye can roll,  
Who has no sunshine in his mind,  
No wealth or beauty in his soul.  
Not poor is he, though never known  
His name in hall or city mart,  
Who smiles content beneath his load,  
With God and Nature in his heart.

—Mark Lane Express.