

HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

We are much obliged to Mr. Naylor, Secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for his prompt and courteous information that the dehorning of cattle—to which we have given some attention in answer to queries, as a somewhat speculative idea, chiefly raised in the United States—would in this Province render the operator liable to a fine of \$50, or 3 months, at the option of the magistrate. We have not space to further notice the matter in this issue, but will comply with Mr. Naylor's request next week, and in the meantime would refer Mr. Naylor back to our issue of the 2nd instant.

A word of, we venture to think, timely caution about potatoes this year. It will, very likely, be quite worth while to sort all sound potatoes, however small, pretty closely before feeding them to the pigs or cattle. Whether large or small seed is the better, may be an open question, but it is certain that small potatoes are better, even to plant, than none, and, with the great sales going on, large ones will be scarce enough next spring.

The *New England Farmer* says:—"The ant is thought to be an enemy of many injurious insects, particularly plant lice, which are so often destructive to the foliage of apple trees."

Editor Critic.—Will you please state in your "Home and Farm" column what varieties of raspberries, gooseberries and currants would be most suitable for planting in King's County: where the bushes can be obtained, and the price?

SUBSCRIBER.

In order to afford you fuller information than we possessed at the moment, we communicated with W. McNeil, Esq., President of the "Small Fruit Growers' Association of the Annapolis Valley," to whom we are indebted for the following particulars.

Mr. McNeil speaks of three varieties of red raspberries. 1.—The "Turner"—a very hardy plant which will grow in any exposure, is very productive, and the fruit of an excellent strawberry-like flavor, but unless it receives good and careful culture is small. It is also soft and not fitted for long transport. It throws out suckers rapidly, and requires attention to keep it from overrunning the ground. It immediately succeeds strawberries.

2. The "Franconia," said not to be very hardy, but Mr. McNeil considers it a most profitable market variety, and has not found it winter-kill beyond a few inches of the tips, which should be nipped off in the spring, when the laterals will fill up the rows. Its habit of growth is slender. If for hill culture, two or more plants should be set together; if in hedge fashion, the plants should be 15 or 18 inches apart, and it does not "sucker" more than enough to nourish the original plants.

The fruit is very large and firm, and it is a good shipper. A crate sent to Boston last summer arrived in fair condition. The flavor is not high, but it is very productive, and continues bearing a long time. It follows the "Turner," and begins when that variety is past.

3. The "Cuthbert," or "Queen of the market," a new variety which seems to possess all the excellencies claimed for it, viz., a vigorous growth, abundant product, and large, firm, fruit of good flavor. It makes as much plant in one year as the Franconia will in two. Its habit of growth is like that of the "Turner."

The stalks of the "Turner" are dark red, and thornless. The "Cuthbert" is lighter in color, with numerous fine spines.

Gooseberries are not a success in every locality. Mr. McNeil's opinion agrees with our own, that they grow best near the sea. We remember that, many years ago, magnificent gooseberries used to grow in the gardens in Halifax Dockyard, and in the old country Scotch gooseberries used to be famous. At all events cool, moist situations are desirable, in others the fruit is liable to mildew in hot weather. The "Downing" is a vigorous grower, and has not as yet shown mildew when it has been tried. Smith's improved "Rupert," and Brown's "Seedlings," have never been known to mildew. The latter is very large and productive. It originated in P. E. Island.

The "Gregg" does well generally. It has a large, firm, and somewhat late fruit. It has not hitherto sold particularly well in the market, but is yet highly spoken of for domestic use.

As regards currants, "Fay's Prolific" is very favorably mentioned. It is very productive, and of fine flavor, and Mr. McNeil considers them the best he has tried. In his article on "The Small Fruit Industry" in our "Exhibition Number," Mr. McN. goes so far as to say that it is "fully five times as prolific as any other kind we raise."

"White Grape" is very productive, and of good flavor. Mr. McNeil adds, "if the color is not an objection." The white currant being distinctly the most delicate flavored, as well the most graceful and beautiful in appearance of the currant tribe, it seems singular to us that such an objection should occur to any one. It is, of course, not a fruit for preserving, but for eating it is most grateful, and we have tasted in England a most delicate and delicious wine made from it—a beverage which would hardly shock the sensibilities of the most rabid prohibitionist.

In black currants, Lee's "Balafre," and the "Black Champion," are mentioned both with commendation, but the latter is quoted as the "best

variety yet introduced," and it should be noted that though the black currant is very productive, the demand has never been supplied. As a jam or jelly, it is, for some purposes, unique in value—for affections of the throat and coughs, for instance.

Rochester, N. Y., is a headquarters for all sorts of plants, fruits and flowers, and Mr. McNeil gives the name of Mr. J. P. Rupert, of that city, as a nursery-man, in dealing with whom he has received every satisfaction, and with whom he would recommend communication.

The following prices are quoted:—

RASPBERRIES.

Turner,	per 100.....	\$ 3 00
"	" 1000.....	15 00
Cuthbert,	" 100.....	5 00
"	" 1000.....	30 00
Franconia,	" 100.....	5 00

CURRANTS.

Fay's (1 yr. plants) per doz.....	\$ 2 50
" " 100.....	15 00
Lee's, " doz.....	1 50
Black Currants, " ".....	2 50

We should recommend you to communicate with Mr. McNeil in the first place. His address is, Melvern Square, Annapolis Co.

It is quite worth while in the connection of "Small Fruits," to draw attention to the following paragraph, which appeared in Mr. McNeil's contribution to our "Exhibition Number," before referred to:—

CRANBERRIES.—Our facilities for the production of cranberries are unsurpassed. Thousands of acres of suitable land in all parts of the Province are lying unimproved, which would yield rich returns to those engaged in the cultivation of this excellent fruit. Our crop the past season has been at the rate of one to two hundred bushels per acre, worth from two to three dollars (\$2. to 12s.) per bushel, being one of the most profitable fruits grown.

OUR COSY CORNER.

Kate Upton Clark, in the *Congregationalist*, so forcibly reminds house-keepers of the necessity of marking, that we cannot do better than to quote her words:

"Too much can hardly be said of its helpfulness towards keeping a house and its contents in order. First, do not on any account omit to mark plainly all the sheets, pillow-cases, towels, napkins, table-cloths and white counterpanes in your establishment. In the country this may not seem so essential as in the city, but it will be found a saving in the end anywhere. Somehow things do disappear faster when they are not marked than when they are. There is no need of accusing people of dishonesty in order to account for this. There are many ways in which articles may be 'mistaken' for one's own which are not one's own.

Second, mark all of your own personal wardrobe which has to be washed. If this were invariably done, a great deal of property would be saved to owners, and a great deal of trouble would be spared those who 'sort out' the clean pieces. For the sake of saving trouble to others, if for no other reason, all of one's handkerchiefs, collars and underclothing should be plainly and permanently marked. A bottle of indelible ink is very cheap, a clean pen still cheaper, and a bright, sunny day, or a hot flat-iron, will easily complete the business. Always keep on hand a stick of linen tape, or a part of one, written over its whole length with your name, or the names of your family, ready to be cut off and sewed on to stockings and such other articles as do not afford a good surface on which to mark directly."

A strong, good sized table is almost a necessity in the cellar. Jars that are too heavy to be lifted on and off shelves may be set on the table. Many cellars are sometimes infested with ants and other bugs. One way to keep them from crawling over the jars is to take the tin-cans in which peaches or tomatoes came, set the legs of the table in the cans, and fill them half full of water.

To remove grease from silk, take a lump of magnesia and rub it well over the spot; let it dry, then brush the powder off, and the spot will disappear; or take a visiting-card and separate it, and rub the spot with the internal part, and it will disappear without taking the gloss off the silk.

Flannel turned yellow may be whitened by soaking for a time in lather made of a quarter of a pound of soft soap, two tablespoonfuls of borax and two of ammonia; dissolve in five or six gallons of hot water, rinse well.

To extinguish the flames from kerosene, use flour profusely upon them.

To clean a spice-mill, grind a handful of raw rice through it.

SOME OF THE NOVELTIES.—A book-cover of dull brocade, with straps of gold braid, imparting a mediæval air to the volume inclosed in it.

A *mouchoir* of pale-green plush nearly a yard long to be placed on the *chiffonier* and form a safe repository for veils, gloves and other little etceteras.

A deep fringe of gold coins to fall over the arm from the shoulder when sleeves are omitted.

A gold belt made of sequins or braid to be worn with a white gown.