

## FRUITS.

The culture of fruit, especially the apple, has been entirely neglected heretofore in Red River; in fact it has never been attempted by the settlers, probably on account of there generally being such an abundance of wild fruits, or the difficulty of procuring cuttings. For this and other reasons an erroneous impression has prevailed, that we could not raise fruit or apple orchards,—an extraordinary inference, when we consider that many forms of wild fruit are indigenous to the country, abounding in the woodlands, and unsurpassed in flavour, size and productiveness—the principal of which are strawberries, whortleberries, saskatoon, and marsh and high bush cranberries, therefore immigrants are not likely to suffer for want of fruit.

In Minnesota the wild plum improves so much by being transplanted and cultivated as to equal any of the garden varieties. The high-bush cranberry also improves by transplanting, and makes a beautiful ornament to the grounds about the prairie farmer's house.

The celebrated and delicious apple peculiar to the neighborhood of Montreal, known as the "*Fameuse*," will no doubt be successfully raised in Manitoba; although we are nearly five degrees further north than Montreal, yet we are twenty-six degrees further west. At the suggestion of the writer, some plants have lately been imported from Montreal, and are doing well; as also a variety from nurseries in Minnesota. The "*Fameuse*" is a rich and beautiful apple, peculiar to the climate and soil of the Island of Montreal, a rich loam with a heavy clay subsoil, which retains the rooting, and prevents the growth of the tree pushing ahead too rapidly for the severe frosts of that latitude. It should be borne in mind that it is not the severity of the winter that kills the young apple tree, but the *alternate thawing and freezing* of the south side of the tree in the spring, which can be avoided by mulching and protecting the stem of the tree when young, by a wrapping of straw; with these precautions, and procuring plants from a suitable climate, or planting the seeds, and thus acclimatising, there is no reason why every farm may not have its orchard in Manitoba, as in other parts of the Dominion.

## FLAX AND HEMP.

Several years ago, at the instance, it is stated, of the late Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, flax and hemp were cultivated to a considerable extent by the settlers in Red River. The product was of an excellent quality, and gave every promise of furnishing a valuable commodity for home manufacture and for exportation. The cultivation of these important crops was stimulated for a few years by premiums given by the Hudson's Bay Company, then administering the government of Assiniboia, but, when the premiums were withdrawn, the cultivation soon ceased; the universal complaint at that time was the want of a market, or of machinery to work up the raw material, and this led them to discontinue this very important and profitable branch of industry. At the nunnery of St.