

THE OLD APPLE TREE.

Here's the old apple tree, where in boyhood I sported,
When my heart was as light as the blossoms it bore;
Where my old maiden aunt by the parson was courted,
In her prim cap and gown, like a damsel of yore.

On that rude oaken bench 'neath the bending boughs
seated,
While the wild bee was humming its songs on the
tree;
We youngsters oftimes in the summer were treated
To share with the elders their gossip and tea.

Look; here are the names of how many now sleeping-
Of parents and kindred, long gone to the tomb;
Yet the old apple tree, like a true friend is heaping
The shrine of their relics with beauty and bloom.

In this season of light that man's spirit rejoices,
While the old apple tree looks as gay as a bride,
I could dream that I heard every one of their voices
That so often have sat on this bench at my side.

Every rudely-carved name has some story to tell me,
That true-lover's knot I remember it well;
It was carved on that day when my first grief befel me,
The day of my parting from young Isabel.

Yes, here we two parted, and parted for ever,
I have wander'd since then like a pilgrim afar;
And have loved too again with some fervour, but never
Shone love on my heart like its first morning star.

And I'm come back to die in the home of my fathers,
And I sit 'neath the blossoms that mock my decay;
And thus my fond me n'ry the sad harvest gathers,
Of friendships and love that have long passed away.

Yes, the old apple tree, where in boyhood I sported,
And the rude oaken benches, they are still in their
place;
But the dear household faces whose welcome I courted
They have vanished and left me, the last of my race.

CURE FOR CABBAGE PESTS.—A gentleman in West Virginia believes that he has discovered a simple and effectual remedy for the abominable pest, the cabbage worm. It is so simple, and easily obtained, that it should be tried by all who are in any way troubled with the creature. The remedy consists in procuring smart-weed or pepper-weed, as it is sometimes called; well known to all farmers, growing in and about farm-yards, or sometimes by the roadside. Take the weed green, and dry it thoroughly, so that it can be reduced to powder, which sprinkle over the young plants, or when the worms begin to appear; it will also prevent injury from the little black fleas that sometimes infest the plants. Possibly if the smart-weed were boiled in water, and that sprinkled on the plants it would serve the same purpose.—*N. E. Farmer.*

PROFIT IN RASPBERRIES.—Two thousand Cuthbert raspberry plants were set in the fall of 1881, in rows, five feet apart in the rows. The soil was a rich loam. In the spring the plants started early and grew right along, so that by fall the plantation had the appearance of a two years' growth. The young plants were pinched back when they had attained a growth of two feet, and in the rows between the plants a good crop of cabbage was grown. The plantation was well cultivated throughout the season of 1882 and not a weed allowed to grow. Now for the results: The past season there was picked and sold from the plantation of a little less than an acre, 100 bushels of fruit that sold for 13 cents per quart, net; or in round numbers, \$384 worth of berries. In addition to this, 48,000 plants have been dug from the patch this fall and sold to one nurseryman for \$3 per thousand, amounting to \$144. Enough plants were kept to set two acres, and the prospects for an immense fruit yield next season is good.—*New England Homestead.*

WOOD ASHES FOR ORCHARDS.—For orchards, says Dr. R. C. Kedzie, in the *New-York Tribune*, I regard ashes as worth more than six times the value of barn-yard manure, ton for ton. When barn-yard manure is composted with wood ashes, the coarse vegetable material and litter are rapidly broken down, and the manure is speedily fitted for use; there is some loss of nitrogen in the form of ammonia, but there will be no loss of mineral matter if kept from leaching by water. Wood ashes represent all the mineral elements of vegetable growth, and contain everything the farmer must give his crops except combined nitrogen. Wood ashes will vary in composition and value with the kind of wood and the part of the tree. I will take the ash of the body-wood of the beach-tree as representing the average of wood-ashes. A ton of such ashes contains 320 pounds of potash, worth \$16, and 105 pounds of phosphoric acid (insoluble), worth \$5.25. Omitting all the other ash constituents, which have some value of themselves, the potash and phosphoric acid of a ton of such ashes are worth \$21.25, or nearly six times the value of a ton of fresh horse-dung.