

many or as large berries in proportion to the canes left as they did before, so I shall go back after this unfortunate experiment to my former method.

The canes should be pinched off at the height of two or three feet, according to the soil and the sort of raspberry grown; but blackberries may be left three to four feet long. Let the currants and gooseberries grow as high as they will. By keeping the canes so short they do not require staking, and by having so many grow together they shade the ground, and add to its moisture and coolness, which are essential to prevent injury from a hot sun.—A. B. ALLEN, in *Rural New Yorker*.

INSECTS AS TALKERS.

"Two ants," says Buchner, "when they are talking together, stand with their heads opposite to each other, working their sensitive feelers in the liveliest manner, and tapping each other's head." Numerous examples prove that they are able in this way to make mutual communications and even on definite subjects. "I have often," says the English naturalist Jesse, "placed a small green caterpillar in the neighborhood of an ant's nest. It is immediately seized by an ant, which calls in the assistance of a friend after ineffectual efforts to drag the caterpillar into the nest. It can be easily seen that the little creatures hold a conversation by means of their feelers, and this being ended, they repair together to the caterpillar in order to draw it into the nest by their united strength. Further, I have observed the meeting of ants on their way to and from their nests. They stop, touch each other with their feelers, and appear to hold a conversation, which, I have good reason to suppose, refers to the best ground for food." Hague writes a letter to Darwin that he one day killed with

his fingers a number of ants who came every day from a hole in the wall to some plants standing on the chimney-piece. He had tried the effect of brushing them away, but it was of no use, and the consequence of the slaughter was that the ants who were on their way immediately turned back and tried to persuade their companions, who were not yet aware of the danger, to turn back also. A short conversation ensued between the ants, which, however, did not result in an immediate return, for those who had just left the nest convinced themselves of the truth of the report.

THE YEAR'S RAISIN CROP.

Some weeks ago a commercial paper of this city roughly estimated the raisin crop of California, 1881, at 91,000 boxes. The *Riverside* (San Bernardino) *Press*, of a later date, corrects this estimate as follows:

	Boxes.
Produced at Briggs'.....	65,000
" by Blower.....	9,000
" at Rocklin.....	12,000
" in Fresno county....	8,000
" at Riverside.....	27,000
" at Orange.....	10,000
" other places.....	20,000

Total 151,000

The *Press* is located in the heart of a raisin district, and has means of obtaining correct information on the subject. From its figures the value of the raisin crop of the State this year will reach half a million dollars. The progress of this industry has been remarkable. In the reports of 1878 the Assessors made no mention of it. At least none is made in the embodiment of their reports in the report of the State Surveyor-General, dated 1879. It now reaches the grand aggregate of half a million, and this will probably be doubled next year, if no unforeseen accident happens to the Grape crop in