

feet wide. There were three rows of vines, the front one below the rafters. Some have an objection to three rows of vines, but I found no difficulty with them, having taken prize grapes off all the three rows. When I took charge of the vineries in the beginning of October, 1853, the sight was not very encouraging, as there was not a green leaf nor a bunch of grapes fit for the table. The vines I should think were about eight years old, and just at their best; but, through bad management, were all covered with mildew, thrip, red spider, &c., &c. My predecessor (a German gardener) said they had the Cape of Good Hope vine disease. The first season I had only a moderate crop, and battled with sulphur until the silver watch in my pocket was the color of copper, but succeeded, and never after had a speck of mildew or red spider, and very little thrip. I always put a little sulphur along the front of the house, and sometimes at the roots. When the back wall was whitewashed, I put plenty of sulphur among the lime. I found sulphur at the roots of the white Sweet-water grape out of doors a great help to keep off mildew.

The vines were pruned on the spur system, and I kept them so, as I think, all things considered, that it is undoubtedly the best mode of pruning. The bunches may not be so large as some on the long-rod system, but the fruit can be more evenly distributed over the whole house. I don't think, after more than twenty years' pruning, that I have left a spur three inches long. To begin in the fall then, as soon as the frost has killed the leaves, prune the vines clear of any loose bark and brush them well with a mixture of fresh lime, soft soap (or rather whale oil soap, I like best), plenty of sulphur, soot water, and earth to make it the color of the vines. I used to get the washing done for a year or two in the spring, but there was so little time then that I changed to the fall and found it made no difference. Lay the vines down before frost, as otherwise it would make them break. Do not cover them until they get some frost, as it sends down the sap and there is no bleeding in the spring. After this cover well with earth, and over all put a good cover of long stable-dung. I covered up well, as I have