

THE ABELE OR SILVER POPLAR— NOT THE SILVER MAPLE.

DEAR SIR,—As requested, I forward a few leaves of the silver maple grown here. The first I knew planted was in front of the central school, it made enormous growth, a great spreading tree, and on account of the silvery appearance of the under side of the leaves and the glossy surface of the upper side it became a great favourite, but after a few years people found it a great nuisance, because it suckered so much. Those at the school are all destroyed. There were several trees of it also planted on the court house square (so-called), but I see they are trying to get rid of them also. We have the silver poplar as well.

W. HICK.

Goderich, 8th July, 1886.

We are under obligations to Mr. Hick for his kindness in complying with our request that he would send us some leaves of the tree known in his vicinity as the silver maple, but which had the bad habit of throwing up suckers from the roots. It is very much to be regretted that this poplar, for it is one of the varieties of the poplar known as Abele and Silver Poplar, should have come to be called silver maple. It is not a maple at all, of any variety. The silver maple, known to botanists as *Acer dasycarpum*, is a very fast growing tree, much used for road-side planting, the leaves of which are bright green above and silvery white beneath, but not coated with such a thick covering of white, downy material, too heavy to be called pubescence, as is found in this poplar. They are also more deeply cut and sharper pointed than those of the poplar. We were greatly surprised,

on reading Mr. Hick's previous communication, that the silver maple should be accused of throwing up suckers, and felt confident that there must be some mistake. We trust that he will do what he can to correct the impression that seems to have got abroad that this poplar is the silver maple. It is too bad that so useful a tree, one so hardy, so vigorous, so easily transplanted, so free from the fault of suckering, should have been confounded with the silver poplar.

The silver poplar which Mr. Hick mentions above as being also grown in his section, is doubtless another variety of silver poplar, possibly that known to botanists as *P. canescens*.

BEEES AS HELPERS IN THE ORCHARD.

I would like to hear or read a discussion on the subject of whether an apiary, kept in the immediate vicinity of an orchard or fruit garden, produced any perceptible difference in the yield of fruit, in comparison to any other orchard or fruit garden not being in close proximity to where honey bees are kept, but having other equal natural advantages.

This question may appear to be ridiculous on the face of it, but I should think that it is important to ascertain.

We have much yet to learn of the secrets of nature, and what we have attained to is like a drop in the bucket, or the first step in the ladder.

The relations of the various kingdoms of nature to each other are but imperfectly understood. Goethe, the German poet, relative to the dawn of light entering into the human mind, illustrates it by the figure of a young man, with open book in hand, exclaims, as he sees the rising sun partially: