

good for the trees into the bargain. White lead is a poison, and mice have four good, strong senses, namely, sight, hearing, taste, and smell. It will also prevent the apple-tree borer in summer, and it is good for wounds of all kinds on trees, whether by pruning or from accidents.

A large number of apple-trees were lost last winter by bark-splitting at the bottom. The cause I believe to be this—when it rains in winter the water runs down the trees to the ground, lodges in a small pool and freezes round the tree. Bank the trees with earth, a few inches higher than the ground around, so that the water will run away instead of lodging, and no fear of bark-splitting. In general there is a hole or depression around the stems of trees at the root; before the winter sets in, fill this up, and avoid the loss of valuable trees in spring.

AN OBSERVER.

Craigvale, Nov., 1870.

Such practical suggestions are always valuable, and always welcome—ED.

The winter meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario will be held in the Court House, in the City of Hamilton, on Tuesday, the seventh of February, 1871, commencing at 10 o'clock, a.m., and continuing through the evening.

CHESTER SEEDLING GRAPES.—F. R. Elliott writes to the *Rural New Yorker* his doubts concerning the value of these seedlings in the climates and soils, the rough care and culture, of the majority of our grape growing sections.

SUMMER PINCHING OF RASPBERRY AND BLACKBERRY CANES.—A correspondent of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, writing from Illinois, says that he has found much benefit by pinching back the canes of raspberry and blackberry plants in July, and enumerates them thus: 1st. Increases the size and self-supporting capacity of the main canes. 2nd. Increases the number of side branches, and consequently the quantity of fruit.

USEFUL MANURE FOR RASPBERRY PLANTS.—Mix equal parts of sawdust and stable manure, and place the compound around the roots every fall before the snow comes. This mixture tends not only to keep the roots warm during winter, but the sawdust, by partially decomposing, furnishes a quantity of potash which is very requisite food for the growing plants. Grape vines may be treated in a similar manner.

THE WEEPING HEMLOCK.—There is an illustration in the *Rural New Yorker* of a new weeping variety of the hemlock, which must make a very handsome addition to our collection of hardy native evergreens. It seems to have been discovered by H. W. Sargent, Esq., of Fishkill, N.Y., growing among some young seedling hemlocks. Grafted some feet from the ground on stocks of the common hemlock, it forms a very pretty drooping head of light feathery evergreen spray.

Poetry.

SEA VENTURES.

I stood and watched my ships go out
Each, one by one, unmooring free,
What time the quiet harbour filled,
With flood tide from the sea.

The first that sailed, her name was Joy,
She spread a smooth, white, shining sail,
And eastward drove with bending spars
Before the sighing gale.

Another sailed, her name was Hope,
No cargo in her hold she bore;
Thinking to find in western lands
Of merchandise a store.

The next that sailed, her name was Love.
She showed a red flag at her mast
A flag as red as blood she showed,
And she sped south right fast.

The last that sailed, her name was Faith
Slowly she took her passage forth,
Tacked and lay too; at last she steered
A straight course for the north.

My gallant ships they sailed away,
Over the shimmering summer sea;
I stood at watch for many a day—
But one came back to me.

For Joy was caught by Pirate Pain;
Hope ran upon a hidden reef,
And Love took fire and foundered fast,
In whelming seas of grief.

Faith came at last, storm-beat and torn,
She recompensed me all my loss;
For, as a cargo safe she brought,
A Crown linked to a Cross.

—Boston Cultivator.

The Winter Snows.

Over the mountains the snow-wreaths are drifting,
Hanging their garlands on laurel and pine,
Robing the fields with an exquisite beauty,
Bending the feathery sprays of the vine,
Falling like down on the breast of the river,
Crowning the maple trees over the way,
Drifting along on the winds to the southward,
Hiding the vessels far out in the bay

In the red sunset the snow-flakes are shining,
Snow-drift on snow-drift, and curl upon curl,
Flashing back colours of exquisite brightness,
Diamonds and rose-leaves and mother-of-pearl.
Softly, ye snow-wreaths, drop over the hill-side
Where in still slumber the weary ones rest,
Where by the pine-tree my mother is sleeping,
Tenderly lay your white folds on her breast

Soon shall the spring-time break over the mountains,
Over its beauty no cold wind shall blow;
Frost shall not breathe there to wither the flowers,
Never again shall they hide in the snow;
Eye hath not looked on that spring in its beauty;
Songs of the seraphs shall welcome its birth;
Come in the beauty and glow of the morning,
Spring-time eternal, dawn over the earth!

Architecture.

Building Houses without an Architect.

I had an excellent kind friend, and also an old worthy female servant. They each wanted a house, and, as I had some experience in almost all kinds of Canadian work, and also wished very much to make some return to both my friend and the old servant, I offered to buy them each a lot and build two houses. There was a vast difference in the kind of house required; my friend's was to be a handsome imposing brick edifice, to cost some \$2400, and his lot was set down at somewhat over a thousand dollars outlay; whereas the old servant's lot must not exceed \$400 in cost, and the house must be built for her at a cost of \$100, and not to exceed this amount—indeed she had no more money.

This work, the first of the kind I ever attempted, is now complete; and I may say, what few young architects can, it is complete without a mistake of any kind. I may except one, which is more an alteration than a mistake, but it needs no particular description, and only amounted to enlarging one room at the expense of another, thereby equalizing them both.

Now I may safely state that an architect is not always necessary, and in our case we should have had to pay him over one hundred and forty dollars for just doing what I myself did. And the only safe thing for any of my readers—who are going to build, and who are also going to dispense with an architect—to do is, just to carefully draw the ground plan of the house, show everything, doors, windows, partition, chimneys, and all, do not leave one iota to be contrived or introduced, or “seen about,” when the lower floor is built. Do the same with all other flats, draw them all most carefully; and also draw each joist and trimmer in it. When you have done this with every floor from the ceiling to the garret, staircase and all, begin on the outside, and draw four or more views, one for each side, and put in every window and door, water spout and descending pipe, so that you can see at a glance what every view will embrace and require. Do this with roof and also each view of it. Next we come to particulars—windows and doors. Proceed to draw a window, the very same you design to have, but do this last plan on a very large scale, say one inch to the foot at least, and draw every view of the window—sides, sill, top and sash, each in its turn, but so drawn, even to the moulding, as will show every view of your window; and this one window will answer for all others. Do the same with a door, and this one, outside or inside door, will also answer for all else. If you want any plainer door, draw it also; draw everything, and you will find that although when you begin you will know nothing about drawing plans,