

work. Trees that will flourish on these soils such as the apple, pear, cherry, plum and apricot, are usually free from disease or insects, and bear large crops. In a moist climate like that of England, fruit trees on a clayey loam would die of canker brought on by the excessive quantity of water in the soil, but such is not the case under the high and warm temperature of our summers. The finest, largest, and most productive plumbs and pears within our knowledge grow in sites on the North River, where the soil is a stiff clayey loam, almost approaching a clay." To this I may add that on my own farm near St. Phillips, [the whole of the land in that section having a strong tendency to the character of clays] the site chosen by one of the first occupants for the erection of a dwelling house, is almost the very lowest point on the whole farm, the soil in the garden is a clayey loam of ten inches, lying upon a stratum of tough yellow clay. On this soil, about 30 trees had been planted, which are now about 40 years of age. For the first two or three years I paid little attention to the trees, supposing them to be wild trees; but about three years ago, I gave them a proper pruning and dressing, and the consequence has been that their branches had to be supported to enable them to sustain their abundant load of apples of fine quality, and they are, at this moment, literally covered with young fruit, and are sending forth vigorous shoots; and from all appearances may live and be productive 40 years more. Satisfied by the experiment that the popular notion of the apple tree, dying in a clay soil is a fallacy. I proceeded last year to plant out about fifteen acres of orchard in a meadow, the soil of which is a stiff clayey loam. The trees were planted in the old and unskilful method, viz. making a hole and putting the tree down (*that is burying it*) the soil, in the mean time, receiving a liberal supply of stable manure; nearly all of these trees are still alive, 30 only out of the whole have perished. This spring these trees received a top dressing of one full shovel of our slacked lime, immediately after the departure of the snow, and they now present a very thriving appearance, though few of them put out any new shoots last year. On examining the roots of these trees last fall, I found that nearly all the roots

which had been planted down into the holes had rotted off, and that the life of the trees was wholly sustained by small fibrous roots, which the tree had put forth within two or three inches of the surface; and I also found that the number of these fibres was far greater wherever a few handfuls of weeds, hay or straw had been thrown about the tree, to protect the surface of the ground from the direct rays of the sun, and a sprinkling of earth had been thrown upon those. This hint suggested to me an entirely new idea of planting, and one that has been of incalculable advantage to me in my planting this spring, and in the hope that it will prove equally advantageous to all who try it, I shall proceed to lay a statement of what I believe to be a new method, and a great improvement in raising an orchard, before your numerous readers; asking their particular attention to the complete success of my own experiment. Following nature's hints in the observations just detailed, I resolved to plant my trees this spring in such a manner as to have a quantity of decaying vegetable matter in such contact with the roots, as to facilitate the development of and a plentiful supply of fibrous roots, the most obvious as well as the most economical method of doing this, was to *plant my trees upon the unbroken turf* when the decomposing vegetable matter, grass, &c., would invite and plentifully nourish the new made roots. The idea once matured, I waited impatiently till the departing snows allowed me to put my cherished dream to the test upon a large scale. A large tract of my farm had been cleared of timber and had remained unimproved two or three years, the underwood or suckers had been twice cut down and set on fire, together with the long coarse grass which had grown up among them, but the roots still remained in the soil; and to remove these so as to allow the plough to work, would cost five or six dollars an acre, an expense which would hardly be justified by the present state of things. This was the place therefore selected for my new process of planting, 2350 trees were sent to the farm in the fall, and put in by the heels drains were made in the mean time between the intended rows, the sods being all thrown to one side. As soon as the season permitted, planting commenced in the following