



FIG. 79.

This is evidently but an abnormally shaped apple, as Mr. Wylie tells us

there is no pear tree growing near it. It may interest our readers to see it, and therefore we have prepared the accompanying sketch of this curiosity.

#### Mixing Manure and Ashes.

85. I have a quantity of hen manure which I intend to apply to my garden and orchard; also some wood ashes. Do you advise applying them separate or mixed together.—J. C., Aultsville.

Reply by Prof. Panton, O.A.C., Guelph.

Do not mix hen manure and ashes, because a chemical change takes place and ammonia is freed.

The lime and potash of the ashes seizes the acid holding the am. in the hen manure, and the am. is thus let go into the air.

### OPEN LETTERS.

#### he Catalpa Speciosa.

DEAR SIR,—As my apparent success spoken of in the *Horticulturist* and the Report of the Fruit Growers Association has, I believe, induced many to plant the Catalpa Speciosa, I think it but right to inform you that unhappily I have found that, while every one of mine has successfully stood our northern winters, the tree has such a drawback that nothin' would induce me to plant another. I have, in addition to smaller ones, two with trunks measuring six inches in diameter, both of which have had the whole top half snapped off, completely destroying the trees, caused by heavy winds after rain, the immense leaves being saturated, making the trees top heavy. Every Catalpa I have has had more or less branches broken off in this way, and their shape spoilt, though they are mostly planted within high board fences, and protected with surrounding buildings.

I am sure that many of your readers will be sorry to hear so poor an account of what promised to be one of the most desirable shade trees we have in this country.—L. H. KIRKEY. Collingwood, September 17, 1889.

#### Northern Light Grape.

SIR.—Another year's experience with this beautiful grape fully confirms the fact it will ripen with Moore's Early when planted side by side on the same soil with the same exposure. The owners are very sorry that for several reasons the propagation of plants has not been so rapid as they could have

wished. Owing to the heavy crops produced on the parent vine the wood of 1888 did not ripen sufficiently to ensure its growth so that the proprietors have only about three hundred plants on hand. It is intended to wait for another year or two before placing it on the market for sale. Amongst the few grapes that set well on the bunches this year at Ottawa was the Northern Light, Niagara and Moore's Early. As a rule other varieties gave imperfect bunches, though this did not occur in every locality.—P. E. BUCKE, Ottawa.

#### Mitchell's No. 1. Tomato.

SIR.—Will you kindly allow me to report on Mr. Mitchell's No. 1 Tomato through the medium of your valuable journal. I am not only well pleased with the latter but am proud of it, proud to see that Canadians can support such a paper. No. 1 with me were as good as any I have ever tasted in quality, uniform in size and as large as samples at Barrie show. But in my experience the chief point of excellence is their being two weeks earlier than any others planted. This is also Mr. J. W. Lee's verdict, also that of a neighbor.—S. SPILLETT, Nantyc, October 7, 1889.

#### The Ontario Apple in Nova Scotia.

SIR.—My Ontario tree has succeeded admirably here. The tree is hardy, a vigorous grower and an early bearer. In quality the fruit is only middling, but is enormously productive of large, sound, long-keeping apples,