

**ABOLITION OF TOLL-GATES.**—The Perth County Council, at its late sitting, adopted a report of a committee recommending the throwing open of the toll-gates on all the public roads in the county. The ground taken for this movement is, that it will be much better to build and keep in repair the public roads in the county directly by public funds, and thus save the expense of keeping up gate horses and paying the salaries of gate keepers—each gate costing probably from \$300 to \$100 for keeper's salary, and building and repairing houses. The *Free Press* hopes the Middlesex County Council will adopt a similar course, which would result in a saving to the tax-payers of that county of not less than \$50,000 a year.

**CLOTH MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA.**—Manufactures in Australia are gathering strength. A woollen company, which has gone recently into operation, has now nearly 5,000 yards of cloth made, comprising the kinds called "tweeds," "meltons," "diagonals," "stripes," "hair lines," &c. These cloths have not yet been sent into the market, as the company intend to accumulate 5,000 yards, for the production of which a premium of £1,500 was offered by the Government some time since, and claim the money, before they appeal to the cloth-consuming public for support. The finished products of the factory are of many different patterns, serviceable and lasting, as they consist wholly of good sound wool. With its present resources, the mill will turn out, when at full work, about 1,500 yards of cloth a week, and consume 1,820 lbs. of washed, or 2,880 lbs. of greasy wool.

**THE MUSKOKA DISTRICT.**—The *Orillia Expositor* thinks its Muskoka friends have taken an excellent plan to bring the capabilities of the District under the notice of settlers. They will issue, in a week or two, a pamphlet showing fairly the advantages possessed by the Territory, and also its drawbacks; and as quite a number of these are to be scattered throughout this Province and the old country, we may expect a large influx of settlers to the district during the coming fall in consequence. The resources of the district only require to be more generally known to have all the good land it contains taken up. The pamphlet is being printed for the "Muskoka District Settlers' Association," which has already done much to advance the interests of Muskoka, and remove the erroneous impressions which have been made on the minds of the people of many parts of the Province by the false statements of those who have had only a glance, and perhaps not even a glance, at a small portion of it, and then reported they "have been in Muskoka, and found no good land worth mentioning—nothing but rocks!" Parties wishing for reliable information concerning the District should address the courteous Secretary of the Association, J. B. Browning, Esq., Bracebridge, who will be always found willing to reply to their enquiries. Pamphlets forwarded to any address on application to the Secretary.

**CLOSE OF THE ST. THOMAS FLAX MILLS.**—The operations which were carried on in this town for several years have been brought to a close, and in common with many others in the country, the St. Thomas mill is lying idle. This is owing to several causes, but chiefly to the decline in the price of cotton. During the American war, when the supply of raw cotton was difficult to obtain, and English factories were turning out scarcely half the quantity of previous years, the manufacture of flax was found remunerative, and in this country several enterprising firms were found to engage in it. Foremost of these were the Messrs. Perrine, who at one time, we believe, had not less than twelve mills in various parts of the province. In connection with Mr. Alexander Young they began operations here about four years ago, and being well patronized by the farmers of the district, who entered heartily into the culture of the flax crop, they had the prospects of establishing an excellent business. The farmers, finding the crop a paying one, were eager to continue it, and were ready to supply whatever quantity was needed. The decline of prices in the manufactured article, however, made it imperative on the part of the mill-owners to close the business, and thus a valuable and very important branch of industry, not only to the neighbourhood but to the country, is brought to an end. During the four years the mill was in operation here, the money paid out in the purchase of raw material and running expenses ranged from \$10,000 to \$25,000 yearly—giving employment to thirty men and as many boys in the fall, and upwards of twenty hands the rest of the year.—*St. Thomas Journal*.



### The Raspberry in Quebec.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, Several communications I have lately seen respecting the alleged want of hardiness in the raspberry, induce me, with your permission, to venture a few words of encouragement to any who may be hesitating as to the possibility of their cultivating in Canada the finer varieties of this delicious fruit. To such, then, I would say, it is not because you are located far to the north that you will not succeed. On the contrary, living near the City of Quebec, I never fail to have a most beautiful crop. Last winter was the most severe experienced here for many years, the thermometer sinking to 37° below zero, and remaining near about there for days together. It has been followed by a most scorchingly hot, dry summer, yet my bushes are fairly loaded down with large and delicious fruit, and not of the common kinds, but of the, so called, tender Antwerps. From my experience with this berry, I have thought that it cannot be merely the cold which injures them, but, possibly, rather the alternate freezing and thawing which they are exposed to in milder countries. I have cultivated here yellow Antwerps for the last fifteen years without experiencing any difficulty; and six years ago, wishing to try other varieties, I procured a few bushes of "Red Antwerp," "Franconia," "Falstoff" and "Victoria." They have all flourished; but the Red Antwerps produce so much the best and largest fruit, that to me the others are valueless.

My mode of cultivation is simply this:—About the middle of September, select a spot where a goodly supply of snow is sure to lodge early in the fall (no difficult matter here), manure the ground heavily by digging in decayed stable manure, plant in rows about three feet apart, plants about eighteen inches asunder in the row, and shortly before the first fall of snow, throw over them any refuse straw or branches. We find potato stalks and spruce boughs excellent. These will gradually bend the plants towards the ground, the weight of the snow will assist, and in the spring they will come out ready to send a leaf from every bud. I had omitted to say that, after planting, I shorten the canes to within less than a foot of the ground. Succeeding springs, I merely take off a few inches from the tops. The Red Antwerps, with me, average from five to six feet high. We train them to horizontal strips of board, placed between each second row, on stakes about three feet high, bringing two rows to meet to one board, and leaving thus an alley between each second row. I find it essential to tie them up in this way, as, if not done, the weight of the fruit brings them flat to the earth, soiling and spoiling the berries. We top-dress well with decayed stable manure and ashes every spring, and again as soon as the fruit is gathered. Treated this way, a very small patch will supply a very large family, and will last without replanting or changing the location for an indefinite number of years. Even without any covering except the snow, very good crops can generally be had; but a few branches or potato stalks cost very little trouble, and insure a large yield, and by bringing the canes evenly and gradually to the ground, prevent their being broken.

As I said, I have yet found no variety to equal the Red Antwerp; but Mr. Beadle's letter, in your last number, has given me an inclination to try what could be done here with the "Hornet," for, so far, I have had no necessity to look for the hardiest, but simply for the best and largest raspberry. As to productiveness, they all produce about as many berries as you could by any possibility stick on the bushes.

F. W. A.

Quebec, Aug. 6th, 1862.

### Wild Flowers of August.

BY MARY LORIMER.

It is now August; sultry, midsummer August. There are not as many flowers to be found as in the earlier months. The waxen May-flowers, and frail Anemones, and many delicate vernal blossoms have folded themselves away to sleep till next spring. But there are many beautiful flowers in August. I hope my young friends have found and faithfully pressed many a wild flower, and have become so in love with the charming and healthful pursuit as never to give it up.

In July I found forty-five wild flowers, and I hope you found several, and that among them were the six varieties of the pretty Silk Weed, or Milk Weed. The species called *Tuberosa* is the most brilliant orange, and the *Quadrifolia* is remarkably pretty, with balls of pale, pink flowers.

You must find in August the handsome *Orchis* family. The white orchis is lovely, and the Purple Fringed *Orchis* is superb, with its elegant, fragrant blossoms.

The Wild Lilies are a gorgeous family, from the fiery red, single lily, growing so freely in the woods, to the graceful buff yellow, where twenty delicate bells often tremble upon one stalk.

The yellow and purple *Gerardias* are found in August; these you can never transplant with any success, because they are what is called parasitic plants, and so is the Scarlet Tipped Painted Cup. Of these parasitic plants I must tell you at some other time, and also of the beautiful air plants, which grow and blossom on a stick of wood, or piece of cork, and require no earth.

Do find the rosy-purple *Rhexia* or Meadow Beauty, and the flower of *Parnassus*, the large, white petals, veined with delicate green lines. Above all, look sharp for the superb Cardinal flower, that marvel of brilliant carmine color, though you will not have to look very sharp, for you can see it from afar. It seems to light up the damp nooks by the brooksides, where it loves to grow.

The ferns, too, are beautiful in August, and the trees are full of interest; every tree having its own peculiar way of growing. How wonderful this is; a Maple spray will never grow like an elm spray; each knows whether the leaves must come out opposite on the branches, or alternate, and they never make a mistake.—*Little Corporal*.

**HORTICULTURAL SINGLE-TREE.**—Our correspondent, D. B. Weir, of Lacon, Ill., has furnished us with one of his new whistle-trees, made expressly for working among young fruit trees, orchards, &c., which we find accomplishes the intended object in as perfect a manner as anything of the kind we ever had the pleasure of thoroughly testing. The leather traces are let out in length a few inches, so as to pass around the end of the implement and hook in the rear. They are secured in their position, so as to extend beyond the ends, and to render it impossible for anything but the leather to touch the tree. We have used it both with a single horse, and with a double team in full ploughing. We requested our ploughman to see if he could not rub off some of the bark of the trees, but he asserted it to be impossible, exclaiming, in his own vernacular, "This is the biggest thing out!"

In cultivating orchards of many hundred standard pear trees—the rows being planted nearer one way



than the other—we had previously found it impossible to run much nearer than two feet to the rows, leaving a strip nearly four feet wide unploughed. This was afterwards finished, with a good deal of difficulty, by the use of a single horse. Now, by the use of Weir's Single-tree, placed on the right or left of the encoder, according to the direction of the furrow, whether from or to the trees, the whole work may be neatly accomplished at one operation. If the trees are near together, it will be most convenient to finish with the one-horse plough. As the new single-tree is short and light, it is necessary to have another equally light to balance it, when using it with two horses. We think that all orchardists, who desire to keep their grounds in a neat and finished condition, without resorting to hoeing or spading in the rows, will be gratified in procuring this new contrivance.—*Country Gentleman*.