

and air circulate freely through it. The buds break evenly; there is no tendency in one to rob the other of its due proportion of sap, and when once established, requires less care than any other mode of training.

One of my vines, the first year after planting, was watered with sink-drain water, and being misled that it injured them, I have discontinued the practice, and have since root pruned them, in order to check too free a growth of wood. Many of my neighbours injured their vines by giving them large quantities of stimulating manures, such as fresh stable manure, or horses or other animal manure, thereby inducing them to make an increased growth of jointed wood. I grow my vines for the fruit, and am satisfied if they make a few feet of jointed wood, and the only manure (if we may so call it) which I now give them is a top-dressing of anthracite coal ashes.

My Diana, with me, has proved a great bearer and free bearer; the bunches of good berries large, some of them measuring seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. It is a matter of surprise that this, the most delicate of our native grapes, should have received so little attention, while new varieties, inferior to it in point of flavor, have been heralded as the greatest acquisition to our list of hardy vines.

The past season has not been favourable to the ripening of outdoor grapes."—*Maine Farmer*.

pruning at the time of the latest frosts and when the upper buds or those at the ends of the branches have begun to leave out, and have even been injured by frost, whilst the inferior buds in the lower part of the branches are as yet dormant and undeveloped. The cutting-in of the long vine shoots, whilst in full growth, is evidently mutilation of the vine, which is sensibly felt, but we have, by this operation, succeeded in retarding the growth of the buds of the vine for a time, and rendered them safe from the effects of the late frosts, and consequently they are developed with great rapidity, at a time when the cold is not feared. But, you will probably ask, why this operation so simple, so old, and so efficacious is not employed everywhere and always? That is easily comprehended, when you bear in mind that it is materially impossible in a country exclusively vine-growing thus to prune all the vines in a few days, which must be the case, if the remedy is to be generally applied. Our mechanical appliances have not yet enabled us to lessen this difficulty. It results from this state of things that the vine-growers, the most convinced of the excellence of late pruning, are obliged to reserve for it only the vineyards of the highest value, and those most exposed to the effects of the late frosts; and this method succeeds perfectly. Reduced even to these modest proportions, the services rendered by this simple method are so great, that it is desirable it should be known and put in practice wherever it is as yet unused."

to Prevent the Effects of Late Frosts on Grape Vines.

M. Delanque, the proprietor of a vineyard in the Department of Dordogne, France, writes following letter to the *Journal of Practical Agriculture* at Paris, which we translate for our readers:—

I write conformably to your request, relative to the practice adopted at the Southwest, to prevent the effects of late frosts on the grape vine. You must note, however, that the vines of this region are less injured by late frosts than those of other portions of France that are more elevated, and farther from the influence of the sea, and consequently more exposed to the effects of temperature. If we could so manage it that the vines would only vegetate after the late frosts, it would be evident that the problem of saving the crop would be solved. To gain this end, if we select (not the late varieties) but only the branches or shoots which are latest in pushing forth their buds in the spring. This plan, however, can only be used with the risk of losing the best qualities of the wine made from the part, and cannot be generally applied. The influence of pruning, in this respect, on the contrary, is constant and general. It has been found that we can retard very considerably the vegetation of the whole vine, by

Curiosities of Gardening.

A writer in the *Quarterly Review* says that gardening, as well as literature, has its curiosities, and a volume might be filled with them. How wonderful, for instance, is the sensitive plant which shrinks from the hand of man—the ice-plant, that almost cools by looking at it—the pitcher-plant, with its welcome draught—the air trigger of the stylidium—and the carnivorous Venus' fly-trap (*Dionæa Muscipula*) which is said to bait its prickles with something that attracts the flies, and then closes on and destroys them, and their decay is supposed to afford food for the plant. Disease is turned into beauty in the common and crested moss rose and a *Lusus naturæ* re-produced in the hen-and-chicken daisy. There are phosphorescent plants, the fire flies and glow-worms of the vegetable kingdom. There are the microscopic lichens and mosses; and there is the *Rafflesia Arnoldi*, each of whose petals is a foot long, its nectary a foot in diameter, and deep enough to contain three gallons, and weighing fifteen pounds! What mimicry is there in the orchises, and the hare's foot fern, and the Tartarian lamb (*Polypodium Baronyetz*). What monsters (such at least they are called by botanists) has art produced by doubling flowers, dwarfing and hybridizing