

## THE HOLLYHOCK.

BY M. W. M., OWEN SOUND, ONT.

Upon a dry and withered stalk  
There sat, in bright array,  
The last of all the Hollyhocks,  
To bloom alone and die.

To bloom alone, when none were left  
Of all the floral band ;  
And not a voice of summer bird  
Was heard throughout the land.

And so, methought, we sometimes see  
One far from friends removed,  
While yet they might have lent their aid,  
And in affliction soothed.

And, like the flowers, we all shall fade,  
In winter's tomb be laid.  
Yet we in Christ shall rise again,  
In youthful bloom re-made.

*Written for Canadian Horticulturist.*

## Fruits.

## TIMELY HINTS.

**Manure the Orchard.**—Now is the time, when other work is closing up, to show kindness to the fruit trees. The trees have just exerted themselves in behalf of their owner, and now deserve their reward. Indeed, unless a top dressing of compost, or of wood ashes, is given them every year or so, they will be revenged by producing small, spotted, unsalable fruit.

**Cleaning up** all rubbish about the trees is also work for this season. Bits of corn stalks, straw, or brush about young trees, will encourage the depredations of the mice throughout the winter. These should be carefully cleared away, and a mound of fine earth packed closely about the trunk. Nothing will more effectually save the trees from the de-

predations of mice than this. Thousands of trees are annually destroyed in Canada every winter, in time of deep snow, through neglect of this simple precaution.

The old fashioned rail fence is an abomination about an orchard or garden. It accumulates tremendous banks of snow, and every tree within twenty feet of such a fence is a temptation to this despicable foe, the field mouse. The wire fence, properly built, is the best for an orchard. Once we agreed with a suggestion in the *American Agriculturist* that the wire should be fastened on rows of trees planted in line to take the place of posts ; but experience has taught us that this does not pay. As the tree grows, the wire is bent out about the staple, and breaks frequently, thus proving a constant nuisance. Good cedar posts are best of all supports for a wire fence. They may be set fifteen feet apart, if well braced here and there.

**Keeping Winter Apples.**—We frequently see it stated that apples will keep their fresh crisp state far better if pitted like potatoes, than if kept in the cellar. It is said that in Kentucky whole barrels of apples are frequently stored in pits in this way. A trench is dug one foot deep, a layer of straw put in the bottom, and the barrels laid in end to end ; then a thick covering of alternate layers of straw and earth is made, sufficient to keep out the frost, and to shed the rain.

Apples so kept are said to come out wonderfully fresh and crisp, and to keep much longer than by the usual method. Perhaps some of our readers would like to experiment, and find out