

OPEN LETTERS.

GRENVILLE Co.—H. Jones.—Apples poor, pears good, grapes good, plums fair. Apples are the only fruit grown to any extent in this county, and the conditions are far from encouraging. In unsprayed orchards, there will not be more than an average of one bushel to the tree, in orchards of 15 years of age and over, fruit will be undersized and spotted. In sprayed orchards, the crops will probably be one brl. per tree, or more, and from 60% to 75% clean. On light gravelly soils, the fruit is dropping badly, but on

loams they are holding well. In my July report, "Green apple worm" should read "Green aphid."

DUNDAS Co.—W. A. Whitney.—Apples fair in quantity, very good in quality. The prospect is that the crop will be three times as valuable as last year. Plums very good, pears very good, grapes good; very few grown for market, although most kinds do well if laid down in winter. We predict good prices for Snow apples, which is our main crop.

* Open Letters. *

The Late Richard Trotter.

SIR,—It is with sincere regret that I note the announcement of the death of Mr. Richard Trotter, of Owen Sound, Ont. For a period of six years Mr. Trotter was one of my most valued correspondents, and a very reliable source of information regarding plum growing. The Experimental Farm was the recipient of several packages of scions of plums, representing varieties which were the product of his own labor and intelligent perseverance. One of these received in 1892 has proved to be one of the hardiest of the Domestica class. Another at Ottawa described in the Report of the HORTICULTURIST for 1894 has fruited as a top graft on *Prunus Americana* at the Central Farm. It appeared to me to be a variety possessing many excellent qualities and entirely worthy of extended trial. Mr. Trotter said that this latter was from the seed of Evelyn, a local seedling, crossed with Felleberg. The tree is a strong grower with thick healthy leaves. A description of the fruit is as follows, taken from the Report of 1894, namely:—"John A." Fruit: large, oblong, sometimes egg-shaped, slightly flattened laterally. Color, a dark bronzy red with a brighter flush near calyx; bloom heavy purplish blue; suture deeply marked; cavity one sided with prominent swollen lip on side opposite suture. Stem 1½ inches long, stout. Flesh greenish yellow, firm and juicy; a pleasant sub-acid. Pit large semi-circling. The prune characteristics are strongly marked. Keeps well. Season Sept. 10 to 20th or later.

I speak specifically of this variety for the purpose of directing attention to the life work of public service rendered by Mr. Trotter, and with the hope that the good he has done may by being brought to the notice of his Canadian fruit growing brethren, live after him in the fullest meaning of the phrase.

JOHN CRAIG.

Ithaca, N. Y., June 20, 1898.

Peach Curl.

SIR,—A gentleman here had several trees afflicted last year; his wife said her father had used a mulching or dressing of wood ashes with success in the disease, so he tried this treatment. Result—No curl on his trees, but those in next yard were very badly infected. Only an isolated case which may be due to something else, but I mention it to excite criticism.

J. M. DICKSON, Hamilton.

Notes on Fruit Crop.

SIR,—Small fruit here is a short crop, and rather poor in quality. Strawberries failed to root last year, but what fruit was got was good. Raspberries are drying up. Gooseberries, currants and cherries are small, the latter little more than skin and stone. Osheim was in first here and the finest of any I have seen.

Gooseberries got such a scorching last year with mildew that they bloomed very sparingly this spring but set well. Some varieties were killed in the ground last winter. Champlain suffered worst in this respect, and I never saw a dead twig on this variety before.

Quite half the fruit has fallen during the last three weeks. When closely examined, the small grub is to be found in every berry.

Bushes have made a fine growth this season. What few plum trees we have in this section are well loaded. Winter apples are a light crop. The Duchess is loaded everywhere.

S. SPILLETT, Nantyr.