

ing the spray upwards as well as from above and laterally all parts of the bush was reached.

Our bushes were pruned severely last fall but in addition to this all suckers and over half of the new wood has been cut away this spring. This was done to let in the air.

Mildew made its appearance on the 6th of June upon the fruit. The foliage has been but little affected during the season and went ahead rapidly for six days by which time half the fruit was affected.

I am satisfied that the persistent spraying not only checked the spread of the disease at this time but killed that upon the berries as their growth was not checked. The pure English varieties again were less affected than the seedlings, this may be owing to the smallness of the seedlings Chautauqua, Queen, Crosby's seedling, Golden Prolific, and Large Golden Prolific suffered most. For vigor and productiveness nothing approaches Whitesmith and Autocrat though Whitesmith is the better fruit. Ontario promises well and Columbian and Dominion are vigorous.

The American varieties, Red Jacket, Pearl, Downing, Champion and Smith's Improved were not sprayed and gave a large crop of clean fruit.

Now to sum up, the foreign gooseberry is superior to the American varieties in size and in size only, and Red Jacket is large enough for all practical purposes when preserved ripe, as they should be, for there is no more reason in canning the gooseberry green than there would be in doing the plum or cherry in the same condition. The thick skin of the large berry are against them. Again the big berry is sweet, in some cases inspired while Red Jacket has a fruity acid taste peculiarly pleasant. We can or rather preserve the Red Jacket for our own use and no other. No berry compares with Red Jacket in appearance when picked just as they are turning to ripen. At this stage they are a pinkish transparent color, very beautiful. To sum up, this variety is the most vigorous, hardy, prolific, beautiful thin skinned variety on our grounds. In size it is well up to Whitesmith when equally loaded with fruit.

If I were planting extensively I should certainly set Red Jacket for main crop and Champion for picking green for sauce, etc., at a season where there is a dearth of material for this purpose. Champion is full grown two weeks before any other variety except Smith's Improved and it is too uncertain a cropper. If a foreign is desired then Whitesmith is more vigorous - my bushes of this variety are as large as Downings - and more prolific than any other foreign variety tested here except Autocrat.

I am certain that when the Red Jacket is fully tested and compared with others it will take first

place as a cooking berry but will also put the gooseberry where it rightfully belongs, at the head of preserving fruits especially for the poor man. I say the man with limited means because there is less waste in this fruit than almost any other and it can be grown cheaper. Our Red Jackets this year gave $7\frac{1}{2}$ quarts to the bush all around. To those who prefer a sweet fruit then the Downing or Pearl fills the tree.

As far as profit is concerned even supposing spraying will control mildews, and it will not, when the cost of spraying, material and labor is counted, it will pay better to grow Red Jacket and Champion at 6 cents than the foreign at 10 cents. Green Chisel still maintains the first place as a pure English variety.

Nantyr.

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Tomatoes on the Channel Islands.

SIR,—Enclosed find a slip I cut from the Southern Times, published at Weymouth (my home 45 years ago). I thought it might be of interest to some of our readers to know the amount of tomatoes *now* grown on the Channel Islands.

When I left Weymouth in 1856, tomatoes were then an almost unknown luxury, but it is very evident that they are now largely grown, and must ripen much earlier there, than with us.

Yours truly, CHAS. JAS. FOX.

THE FRUIT TRAINS.—One of the sights of the Great Western line this summer has been the passing of the fruit trains from Weymouth. With an engine at the front going at topmost speed, and another pushing at the rear to help it along, the trains go through the small stations at a terrific rate, highly suggestive of the importance of the business on which they are bent. To the growers of the luscious products it is the essence of the trade that the fruit should be got to its destination within a few hours of its being picked, and the railways are not slow in providing the prosperous growers of the Channel Islands all the facilities they need. That they are doing well there is no reason to doubt, which perhaps is more than can be said of the people who rely on the pleasure traffic. The official returns show that so far this season over half a million packages of fruits, vegetables and flowers were despatched, and a large proportion of them were shipped by the Weymouth route. Tomatoes are grown on an enormous scale, and it is stated the output this year was over a quarter of a million baskets, averaging fifteen pounds each. What this means to the Great Western anyone who pays a visit to the landing stage on a busy afternoon can see.

