

TIME FOR CUTTING BUSHES.—Much has been written on this subject, the sprouting being a great annoyance. The same laws govern all timber, but some are more susceptible than others. Where tenacity of life is feeble, a comparative slight cause will produce death. The leaves are the respiratory organs, or breathing apparatus, of plants, and hence, deprive a plant of these, and the health will be greatly impaired; if the plant be tender and the deprivation be persevered in, death will follow. Several years since I selected the red raspberry to make experiments on. This is a very hardy plant. I selected healthy stems. When the leaves had reached their maturity, before the petioles, or leaf stalks, became woody, I carefully picked them without inflicting any further injury on the plants. Part of the plants never sent out another crop of leaves, and those that did, only furnished a scanty crop of an indifferent quality. These were removed as before, and another fraction, larger than before, failed me. The rest gave a miserable crop of straggling leaves; these were plucked and all the plants died. The roots were left undisturbed, the naked stems uncut till another season, to see if resurrection awaited them; but the work of death was complete. The same experiment, with equal success, has been tried on shrubs and trees. Hence, the utility of sheep in the destruction of briars and bushes. In cutting, cut them when the leaf is mature; a few may sprout, cut these when full leaved. The repetition will be seldom.

THE CANADA GOOSE.—The Canadian, or American wild goose, (*Anser canadensis*), and the Chinese goose, (*A. cygnoides*), occupy, as a writer observes, "a sort of debateable ground," so that naturalists have been in doubt as to which family they should be referred; and hence some have applied to them the name of swan-geese.

The Canadian goose is extensively known. It is a migratory bird, and in its semi-annual journeys, traverses the northern part of the continent almost from the equator to the pole; and there are but few of the inhabitants of this country that are not familiar with its shrill and animating cry. Its autumnal flight lasts from the middle of August to the middle of October, and the vernal flight from the middle of April to the middle of May. Various stops are made, however, at convenient points, between the winter and summer localities.

It breeds in its wild state only at the north. Its favorite resort is the coast of Labrador, and the region about Hudson's Bay; though Hearne speaks of having seen great numbers within the Arctic circle, pushing their way still northward.

To the inhabitants of the regions where it breeds, the bird is regarded as an important source of subsistence. Its arrival in spring is anxiously looked for, and the Indians denominate the month the goose moon. It is said that the carcasses of these birds are dealt out as rations to the men employed by the Hudson's Bay Company. "One goose, which when fat weighs about nine pounds, is the daily ration to one of the Company's servants during the season, and is reckoned equivalent to two snow-geese. (*A. hyperborea*), or three ducks, or eight pounds of buffalo and moose meat, or two pounds of pemmican, or a pint of maize and four ounces of suet." [Richardson.] Those which are killed after the weather becomes cool in the fall, are frozen and kept in the feathers for a winter stock of provisions.

Richardson describes the habits of these geese in his *Fauna Boreali-Americana*, as follows:

"About three weeks after their first appearance, the Canada geese disperse in pairs through the country, between the 50th and 67th parallels, to breed, retiring at the same time from the shores of Hudson's Bay. In July, after the young birds are hatched, the parents moult, and vast numbers are killed in the rivers and

lakes, when from the loss of their quill-feathers, they are unable to fly. When chased by a canoe, and obliged to dive frequently, they soon become fatigued, and make for the shore with the intention of hiding themselves, but as they are not fleet, they fall an easy prey to their pursuers. In autumn they again assemble in flocks on the shores of Hudson's Bay, for three weeks or a month previous to their departure southwards."

The Canada goose has been domesticated and is not an uncommon inhabitant of the poultry-yard, either in this country or in England. It does not breed till it is three years old. It is somewhat larger than the common goose, and its flesh is better; it has also more feathers and of better quality. It is very hardy, and rears its young with much certainty. It is believed to be quite as profitable as the common kind; and considering its beauty and usefulness, it would seem desirable that it should be multiplied in a domestic state.

The Canada goose will breed with the common, and also with the Chinese goose,—but the hybrid offspring are in all cases, incapable of procreation. Some poultrymen, however, make it an object to breed mongrels, as they are called. They grow rapidly, and acquire a larger size than either of their parents, and their flesh is of so fine a flavor, and so highly prized, that it readily commands a higher price in the market. The finest mongrels are produced between the wild and the Bremen, and the wild and the Chinese geese.

It is stated on the authority of Buffon, that the Canadian goose, kept in a domestic state in France, was found to interbreed familiarly with the swans. Have any attempts been made to cause this goose to breed with the American swan, and with what success?

It may be remarked that the wild goose (*A. palustris*) of Europe, is the parent of our common domestic goose, and of course a distinct species from the Canadian goose. —*Albany Cult.*

ASHES AS MANURE FOR GRASS LANDS.—There is scarcely any part of this country where leached ashes cannot be obtained in greater or less quantity: and in the vicinity of asheries, abundance may generally be had. If the following remarks by Count Chaptal are applicable to soils, of whatever materials they may be composed, a knowledge of this property of leached ashes would, in many instances, be of great value. At all events, the experiment is easily performed on a moderate scale.

"The ashes, produced by the combustion of wood in our common domestic fires, give rise to some very remarkable results. Without being leached, these ashes are much too active; but after having been deprived by the action of water, of nearly all their salts, and employed in this state, under the name of *buck-ashes*, they still produce great effect.

"The action of the buck ashes is most powerful upon moist lands and meadows, in which they not only facilitate the growth of useful plants, but if employed constantly for several years, they will free the soil from weeds. By the use of them, land constantly drenched with water may be freed from rushes, and prepared for yielding clover and other plants of good kinds."

It has been frequently supposed that ashes applied to wet, heavy soils, is injurious. This is probably owing to the application being too uneven, and in too large quantities, and to the want of mixing them intimately with the soil. Chaptal says, "Wood ashes possess the double property of amending a wet and clayey soil, by dividing and drying it, and of promoting vegetation by the salts they contain."

It is well known, that the evenly spread and intimately intermixed layer of ashes which soils receive by burning the turf, produces extraordinary effects upon grass lands. —*Genesee Farmer.*