

The common Alpine strawberry has been peddled for years with the word *Mammoth* [very captivating] prefixed. The *Chart Oak Grape*—a great fox Grape, utterly worthless except, as Mr. Longworth says, that it might serve for cannon balls if lead were scarce—for two or three years has had a fine run in almost every part of the country, at three or five dollars per plant. The *“Eccelsior,”* and several others puffd and prided about, are no better.

Sum up to say, very many of those who purchase such articles would not be so easily persuaded to purchase those of real merit. Nothing else will serve them but to be *humbly*ed, to use a vulgar but expressive term.

Newspapers lend themselves unwillingly, as a general thing, to these frauds, and do a great deal of harm. The family newspaper is looked up to as authority; and when these speculators get their glowing descriptions published, their work of deception is half a-complished.

The only thing that can remedy this evil is the dissemination of intelligence; and we call upon the friends of horticulture and of honest and honorable dealing, in all parts of the country to lend their aid in exposing and arraigning this system of fraud. It is a disgrace to the trade and to the morals of the country. A most unpleasant duty it is for us to give such a subject this importance; but we cannot shrink from it. Paris is not the only place where such dishonesty is practised, the same game is played on a smaller or larger scale all over Europe, as the pages of their journals prove.

If there be anything about which people should exercise extraordinary care and caution in purchasing, it is that of trees, seeds, and plants. What a loss of time and money, and what a disappointment and mortification, to be deceived in these matters! It is not difficult to avoid impostors, if we but determine on so doing. There are honest tradesmen enough everywhere, from whom a supply can be obtained.—men who have a character at stake and who feel that their success depends upon their good reputation. These harpies who go about the country deceiving are here to-day and there to-morrow. They seek patronage but *once*.

Our advice to all parties who desire to purchase trees, seeds, plants, or flowers—anything pertaining to horticulture in which frauds are or can be committed, is to place their orders in the hands of men whom they know to be trustworthy. Reliable tradesmen are well known, and those of them who have travelling agents, provide them, or should provide them, with the requisite testimonials with which they may give the fullest satisfaction to those whose patronage they solicit. On this head a rigid inquiry should be made. No statement should be listened to that appears anywise suspicious.

Our reason for giving the above well written article a space in our columns is because the same deceptive game has been practised for years in our vicinity and all over the Province by persons of the very same character as described by Mr. Barry's able pen. Thousands of dollars are every year extorted from the credulous good country people in Canada by Yankee Peddlers ransacking both Provinces in all directions and pretending to be appointed agents for some respectable neighboring establishments, with no other intention but to deceive those who place confidence in their enticing stories, such as the promise to make up all losses caused by unfavorable seasons, &c., but never showing their faces again in the same locality. The neighbors of Collingwood and Owen Sound in particular have of late been a large field for their skillful manoeuvres and we are assured by good authority that it is really shameful to see the way they have used the public, selling them trees that were dead before planted.

We would therefore earnestly recommend our readers to apply at some respectable nursery, such as Mr. Geo. L. Shepley's, to whose advertisement we would refer them, whose long experience and extensive connection may with safety be relied upon as a guard against deceit. Moreover he keeps Agents in most parts of the Province to take up orders for his establishment, thus to facilitate to purchasers the transacting of business with him. As the conveyances by sea to all parts of the Provinces are now so easy, parties in want of Nursery Productions would do best to apply direct, to secure their receiving good order, and without delay.

Communications.

UNBURNT BRICK FOR BUILDING.

The following communication was received in answer to enquiries in the February Number but got mislaid, and was not discovered until a few weeks since. It may be interesting to some of our readers and we therefore publish it, even at this late period:—

WESTWOOD, Sarnia, C.W.,
June, 25, 1855.

SIR,—Your querist (in your February number) Mr. Knowlson, asking for information as to the manufacture of unburnt brick, is, I perceive, not yet answered.

Having been a settler in this country when my nearest white neighbour was twenty miles distant, I have, in former years, been compelled to try my hand at almost every trade, this one in question, among the rest; and th