

Open Letters

VALUE OF THE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Your paper is of great value to the Horticulturist on account of its fine cuts of new fruits and flowers and the very practical character of its contents.

The Vergennes Grape I received last year grew rapidly till the summer frost cut it down, but it made a fine growth afterward. All the other plants I have received did well, except the Boussock Pear, which died.

J. J. BROWN, *Stouffville, Ont.*

THE MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE late meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, held at Excelsior, January 21st and 24th, was very well attended, and I think will rank as the best and most profitable meeting yet held by the Society. Wyman Elliot, of Minneapolis, was re-elected President, and Prof. Samuel B. Green, Horticulturist of the State Experiment Station, St. Anthony Park, was elected Secretary.

Very truly yours,

J. S. HARRIS. *La Crescent, Minn.*

THE ONTARIO FRUIT LIST.

FROM the following letter addressed to Mr. Thos. Beall, which is only one of several of a similar nature, it is evident that the work of our Association in preparing on Catalogue of Ontario fruits with values, and in making up special lists for various sections, will be appreciated by the public:

SIR,—It affords me much pleasure to see an effort being made to reduce the large number of useless apples now grown in our country. I believe the foreign market value will help to show us the kinds to grow for export. Our section will grow any of the kinds mentioned on your list, but of some the trees are poor growers, and of others the fruit falls too early. The Ben Davis is a heavy bearer, but dwindles with age, and is very coarse.—THOS. BURDEN, *Bowmanville, Ont.*

PLANTING IN SIMCOE COUNTY.

SIR,—I planted an orchard on a northern exposure, of seventy-nine apple trees, twenty-nine varieties, last spring; also, three kinds of plum and two of pear, and a lot of small stuff on a sandy ridge between Matchedash Bay and Sturgeon Bay, about a mile from the Bay and 150 or 200 feet above it. If I suc-

ceed I intend to plant ten acres or more. I made a map of orchard. I thus know what I put in if true to name, and where it came from. I have some idea of how they grow fruit about Oakville and vicinity. I may correspond with you in the near future if you don't object.

I do not believe in so many varieties, but want to find out kinds that will succeed here. Planted a number of favorite kinds which I do not expect to stand the climate. There is a ridge above me on the west. I intend to leave or plant a belt of timber on the north and west. I bought a new place, our old pine slash, with a great wild berry patch, and I am clearing it up and planting on the new soil. When I get over the squeeze of clearing and building, I hope to be able to buy books and make a study and a success of fruit-growing. Yours sincerely, R. C. STEWART, *Fesserton, Ont.*

PLANTS TESTED IN GREY CO.—THE ONTARIO FRUIT LIST, ETC.

THE Russian apple tree (sent out, I think in 1885, and of which I have lost the name), was killed the second winter down nearly to the ground and has not grown much since, but I have a couple of grafts growing on other trees, also a couple of small trees grafted from it, so that I have a chance to get fruit from it some day.

The Lucretia Dewberry grows plenty of vine, but very little fruit as yet. The Vladimir Cherry is doing fairly well, but I don't know whether to train it in tree or bush form.

I think the classifying of the different varieties of fruit, as described in the January number of the HORTICULTURIST is a good plan, as is also that of prominent fruit growers attending and speaking at farmer's institutes, in the interest of fruit growing.

I attended the meeting of the South Grey Farmer's Institute, held on the 4th of January, in Victoria Hall, Dundalk. The speakers were James Mills, President of Ontario Agricultural College, J. McMillan, M.P., and T. A. Race, also R. Cornell, a local cheese maker and dealer. Mr. Race spoke on the pruning of fruit trees, and also about the proper time to buy them. He said it was no advantage to do as some nursery men recommend and buy trees in the fall, bury them through winter and plant them in the spring; as it is like putting a person in a warm bath and then exposing him to the cold wind. He also spoke on the growing of strawberries and other small fruits.—ROBERT SCOTT, *Hopeville, P.O., Grey Co., Ont.*