

struggling for existence in a field of blue or Canada thistles, browsed off by cattle, harked by sheep, while it is indeed a pleasure to see a thrifty young orchard growing under one's careful management, and in a few years it will repay any generous treatment may have received. But a neglected orchard is a subject of constant reproach and ways ends in pecuniary loss.

I am glad to see such active exertions being made to establish a fruit growers' association in Upper Canada. It is a society eminently suited for the wants of the country, and I feel confident from the names already connected with the enterprise that it will prove a success. The information that it has already diffused regard to some fruits being hardy in certain localities, and not hardy in others, is especially interesting to those intending to plant, and if attended to by them may save much expense and disappointment.

Since writing the above we have been visited with a very severe storm of sleet accompanied with a high wind. That veritable individual the "oldest inhabitant" never recollects of so much ice being on the trees, small branches of last year's growth were loaded with ice of an inch and a half in diameter. Of course such a load swayed by a heavy wind did great destruction among trees, but the peach trees were the greatest sufferers, and fully one half the bearing wood of the trees is destroyed, while the younger though not so badly broken are sadly tilted.

R. N. BALL.

Niagara, March 20th, 1862.

the Failure of the Apple Trees in the neighborhood of Montreal.

Communication to the Committee of the Natural History Society of Montreal. By OEN ARCHBOLD.

(From the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist)

The failure of the apple trees in the neighborhood of Montreal, and I believe in all the Island, is a calamity as regards domestic luxury, as well as in a commercial point of view. I have seen Montreal in its palmy days of apple-growing, with its thousands of barrels of Pommess, Bourassas, and Fameuses. These were the principal sorts sent to Europe, the refuse of as well as the great quantities of the wild ones, that is apples from seedlings, always ready market at Quebec and the ports, and at remunerative prices. With these before us, it is not to be wondered at, that enquiry should be made by all who feel least interest in the culture of the apple, as to the cause of its decay. I have been a resident of Montreal since 1832, and for the last twenty years have lived on the south-eastern slope

of the Mountain, on the Cote St. Antoine road, and have acted in the capacity of gardener at Mount Pleasant, the then residence of the late Joseph Savage Esq.; also at Rosemount, the residence of the Hon. John Young, and subsequently at Forden, the residence of Capt. R. T. Haynes and of the late Charles Bowman Esq.; one of the most zealous friends and supporters of Horticulture, in his day, that Montreal could boast of. All these places were noted for the production of fine varieties of the apple, the pear, and the plum. The latter place, Forden, in particular, used to yield about fifteen years ago, from 1,000 to 1,500 lbs. of fruit, but the last three years have made sad havoc with the trees, and unless some reaction in the growth take place, there will not be one of the old trees living, three years hence. I noticed the decline of some sorts of the apple twenty years ago. I had a talk with the late Henry Corse Esq., about that time, on the failure of the Early Harvest apple, and he was under the impression that it was then extinct about Montreal, but I convinced him that it was not, for in each of the above mentioned places, I had seen trees of the Early Harvest which gave from three to four barrels of good apples, but these few trees are, I have every reason to believe, now gone. There were also the Ribston Pippin, (much on the decline these last ten years,) the Keswick Codlin, Hawthornden, Grant's Major, John Richardson; but these and some others, I always looked upon as being tender, from the softness of their wood, which is not nearly so hard as that of the Bourassa, Pomme Grise, and Fameuse, and therefore, do not wonder at their destruction. These latter sorts have, however, for the last ten years been declining in vigor of their growth, and size of their fruit. I was for some time under the impression from what I could learn from some gardeners, and other cultivators of fruit, that the above named three sorts of apples, would not bear fruit in any other locality than in the Island of Montreal, but that impression was completely removed on visiting the Provincial Exhibition held at Brantford, C. W., some years ago. I saw there as fine specimens of the Bourassa as Montreal could produce in its best days. At Hamilton I also visited some of the gardens, and there to my surprise, I found the Pomme Grise, Fameuse, and Ribston Pippin, growing side by side, and loaded with fine fruit, with not the slightest appearance of decay. These remarks, however, are by the way; the point of discussion at present is the cause of the decay in the apple trees in the vicinity of Montreal. There will, no doubt, be a great many opinions put forth on the subject, and some light will, I hope, be thus thrown on both the cause and the cure. Were the decay confined to one place, one kind of soil, or one mode of pruning or culture, there would be less difficulty in discovering both the cause and cure, but when we find the decay in one fell swoop,