

could easily be done without trenching on the space devoted to the recreation of the pupils; even planting a few evergreens would add much to the appearance, and when the proper season arrives, the native climbing plants from the woods, such as the Virginian creeper, can easily be procured; so can ferns and many native plants of great beauty, such as hepatica, Canadian lily and many others familiar to the children, which, when transplanted, grow freely with a little attention, and become brighter and better from cultivation. To these may be added hardy, perennial flowers, such as Lychnis, Phlox, Lupine, Sweet Williams. As a commencement these could all be planted around the school, and as the children's taste for flowers becomes developed, the cultivation of flowers might be extended.

The Orchard.

In planting our orchard we committed the same error that most farmers fall into, that is, in planting too many varieties. Most of them are good, but there is a difficulty in keeping so many assorted, and not having enough of some good leading variety to make a car-load of a kind. From our experience in shipping, we find that our profit has been derived from the best keeping sorts, and that our loss has been from those that ripen and decay too early. Our Russets and Pomme Gris have returned good paying prices every time. We had thought to increase the quantity of both these kinds, and reduce some of the early maturing kinds.

Our Nova Scotiā brethren appear to be rather in advance of us in Ontario in looking after the apple market and their orchards. They have better facilities for shipping than we have, and have made well out of their apple crops. They watch the market, and graft and re-graft their trees to procure the best kinds adapted to the British market. The apple that is now in vogue with them is

THE NONPAREIL.

This apple, from all we are able to ascertain, appears more profitable and more suitable for us to grow than any we have in Ontario. Our attention has been called to it by a subscriber, who was so much impressed with its value that he brought us one of the apples and a most satisfactory account of its hardiness, its quality, productiveness, and what is of great importance, of the enormous price it commands in England. We wrote to the Maritime Provinces to procure some grafts and also a description of it. We give the reply:—

Sir,—The Nonpareil apple is of French origin, having been brought from France and grafted into the natural fruit of this country. In appearance the Nonpareil resembles the Golden Russet, being about the same size and shape, but rather darker in color. The skin of the Nonpareil being tougher than that of the Golden Russet, is less easily bruised, consequently the Nonpareil will bear a greater amount of handling than the Golden Russet. The Nonpareil, if properly gathered and stored, will be found sound and firm as late as the middle of June, whereas the Golden Russet will show decay by the first of April. In the Nonpareil decay begins upon the skin, while in the Golden Russet it begins generally at the core.

As regards the cultivation of the Nonpareil, the trees are slow of growth, so much so that we have abandoned setting them out; growing instead trees of softer kinds of fruit. When these have attained a growth of eight or ten years, we graft into them scions of Nonpareil. In three years from time of setting the scions, the trees begin to bear, and will bear every year if properly cultivated. Scions of the Nonpareil may also be grafted into trees of a larger growth. A Nonpareil tree will yield about as much as a similar sized tree of Golden Russet. The Nonpareil ripens slowly, and will lose flavor if gathered here earlier than the last of October. For shipping for the English market the Golden Russet requires to be shipped not later than the first of March, whereas the

Nonpareil will keep until the first of May before shipping.

As regards the Pomme Gris, we do not consider them worth cultivating.

I will supply you gratis with all the scions you may desire, but they will not bear cutting until the first of April. Please inform me what number you require.

The samples I will dispatch by express at the time of mailing this.

H. E. T., Tupperville, N. S.

We intend to have some trees grafted, and will supply a few grafts to those of our friends who have ever sent in a new subscriber, or sent a valuable contribution to the ADVOCATE. We do not wish to make a profit in introducing this valuable acquisition to your orchards; neither have either of the gentlemen from whom this information has been derived; neither would any of you wish us to be a loser while doing you good. We therefore purpose this year sending a few grafts to those who may apply, when they send a subscriber or a communication. We will send a few scions to graft. The only remuneration we will ask is for you to send a 5-cent stamp to pay for carriage, packing and postage. As we have but a few of these grafts, we cannot include all our subscribers in this offer, but trust that those who procure them will in a few years supply our other subscribers in each locality with as cheap a means of procuring the scions as we afford them. Such a keeper must add to our wealth. The quality of the apple is good. We have had a few sent to our office, so you can see them if you call. So highly do we think of them that we instructed our artist to draw one just its natural size and form.

A Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

The way American ranch property has been "booming" within the past twelve to eighteen months, is an indication that there is liable to be a drop in values ere long, and a very violent one if prices for ranch cattle and lands are boosted much higher. There is something of a mild excitement prevalent amongst small capitalists, and some large ones, about investing money in ranch stock. They see the great profits which have been made in the business within the past year or so, and do not seem afraid to "go in" at exorbitant prices; seeming not to take into consideration the fact that the stocks which are now returning 30 per cent. dividends were bought when values averaged 75 to 100 per cent. lower than at the present time. By far the bulk of the capital being invested in cattle and lands on the plains is foreign, mainly from Great Britain, and if there are not some blasted hopes about the time dividends are expected, it will be because the former were not very high, for certainly the latter will not be nearly so high as many anticipate. While it is true that even under adverse circumstances the cattle business of the West will yield larger dividends than many other investments, it is equally true that there is a great deal of risk in it. It is impracticable to provide and furnish food in the winter, and when the animals are cut off from water by ice, and from food by heavy snow falls, as they frequently are for long periods, the suffering and loss are terrible. It is a significant fact, that while there are large numbers of anxious bidders running all over the Western raising sections, endeavoring to buy ranch cattle, even at the prevailing prices, the men of the most experience and most money are quietly holding aloft, and allowing the crazy men to buy the stock at crazy prices. Moreover the most conservative ranch men, many who have been in the business several years and made handsome fortunes, are unloading their stocks and getting out of the business as quietly but rapidly as possible. They

go on the safe plan of buying when prices are low and selling when high. Prices may not be high; they may go higher, but no reasonable, disinterested observer is of any such opinion. With the advance in prices of cattle and lambs within the past few years, there has been a corresponding increase in cost of managing herds. The cow-boys now demand canned goods of all kinds and a somewhat extensive bill of fare, whereas they formerly were contented with plenty of hard tack and "sow-belly." Word comes from Southern Kansas and New Mexico that the cow-boys have demanded \$50 per month and board, and refuse to work for less.

The demand in all parts of the States for improved cattle, hogs and sheep, continues to increase, and Canadian breeders will probably be able to find a good market for all the fine stock they can spare.

The dressed meat system is not making quite so much stir as it did a few months ago, and the business of shipping live stock from the interior to the seaboard markets is not, and probably will not for a long time be superseded by this new system; but the practicability of the thing, and its manifold advantages, are becoming more apparent as the business of shipping dressed meats slowly but surely grows in public favor. No thoughtful person expected an instantaneous revolution in the trade. The amount of capital invested in the handling of live stock is too vast to be soon overpowered.

Rather extensive shipments of live cattle and sheep to Great Britain are being made from Chicago, but to my certain knowledge some who have contracted for steamer space, and are compelled to fill their contracts now, are losing very heavily.

Refrigerators or Ice Houses.

The vast improvement that science has brought to bear in the construction of refrigerators or ice houses, is such that its beneficial results must rapidly spread beyond the mere limits of the affluent, into the homes of the majority of our enterprising farmers,—not only for the comfort and luxury they afford, but for the actual cash profit that results from their use. The new beginner or new settler need not invest his means in such until he has other necessary comforts around him, but thousands of our farmers would find comfort and profit from the judicious use of ice.

Some few farmers have found the comfort and profit of even the old-fashioned ice house, but by the use of the new refrigerator ice house, of which we gave an engraving in our advertising columns (turn to it), you can keep your meat and fruit for many weeks. The profit or loss are too well known to many to need describing. If you have not adopted that principle, but use the old-fashioned ice house, a small refrigerator placed in the house is the most convenient.

There has been so much improvement in the construction of this useful and now ornamental piece of furniture, that the old plan of stuffing with sawdust has been abandoned, and air-tight spaces form the best non-conductors; even now the vacuums formed by double glass doors appear to be quite as effectual in preserving many things as in the old dark refrigerators. The present evaporators keep meat and fruit much longer than the old ones, because the new form of constructing them carries all unnecessary dampness out of the refrigerator. For dairies, fruit farms and butcher shops they must be indispensable, and those who use them will assuredly gain the advantage over those who do not. Even in butter, they would pay every farmer who has a good opportunity to sell his butter fresh to consumers.

Bryce Bros., of Toronto, Ont., have the control of the best plans, both for large refrigerators adapted to dairies, fruit establishments, or butcher shops. They also have control of the best house refrigerators, which may be seen by their having been awarded all first prizes for refrigerators at the Industrial Exhibition at Toronto. Send to them if you wish to procure the best plan for a large or small one. The best is generally the cheapest in the end.