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MAY, 1888.

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The
Canadian

HORTICULTURIST.

HORTICULTURIST.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO FRUIT, FLOWERS, AND VEGETABLES
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 PUBLISHED BY

* THE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO *

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GERMAN PRUNE.

FOR CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

THE
Canadian Horticulturist.

VOL. XI.

1888.

No. 5.



THE GERMAN PRUNE.

THIS PLUM was so highly commended by the plum growers living in the vicinity of Collingwood, at our meeting there last summer, that we have had colored plates of it printed for this journal that our readers might all have a clear idea of its appearance. Few persons will need to be told of its peculiar adaptability to drying and preserving, for most of us have seen the dried prunes of the groceries, and enjoyed the grateful sauce made by soaking them in water over night, and stewing them slowly with sugar for about an hour. Preserved, this plum is used by the peasants of Central Europe to spread upon the bread in place of butter, and dried, it is exported in large quantities, especially from Germany, Hungary and Saxony. Indeed, in that

country, it is considered the most valuable of all fruit trees.

The German Prune reproduces itself quite closely from the seed, and therefore, has been largely propagated in this way. As a result, quite a number of variations have resulted, and yet all the sub-varieties retain the general characteristics of the parent. It must not, however, be confused with the Italian Prune, or Fellenburg, which is a distinct kind. The common German Prune is thus described by Mr. Downing:—Fruit, long, oval, nearly two inches long, peculiarly swollen on one side, and drawn out towards the stalk. Suture distinctly marked. Skin purple, with a thick blue bloom. Stalk three-fourths of an inch long, slender, slightly inserted. Flesh firm, green, sweet and

pleasant; separates from the stone, which is flat, very long, and a little curved. Good to very good. 10th of September.

There is a variety grown about Collingwood, which is known as Baker's German Prune, and is highly valued. At our meeting there, Mr. Lewis spoke of it as follows:—

I believe the Baker's German Prune is the coming plum in this country, and the one most desirable for planting on a large scale, with a view to shipping. Most of our varieties you have to pick and market the whole business in a few days, or you will have them rotting on your hands; but Baker's German Prune, when fit to market, can be allowed to hang on the tree and await the market for three or four

weeks without injury to the plum itself. Another thing; when you are overloaded, and have a large quantity of plums that you cannot market anywhere else, it is a freestone, and can be easily pitted, and when evaporated, or dried in any other way, is a good salable article, and desirable for that reason. Another point in its favor, in my experience, is, that they bear every year. With me, they have borne every year for six years, and the present is the first year in which there has been a partial failure, and that I attribute to the heavy crop of last year. There is a lady at Nottawasaga, named Mrs. Rose, who has marketed from a few trees a large quantity of these German Prunes yearly in this place, and who, I venture to say, has netted more money from her orchard of plums, in proportion to its size, than any other person in this country.

A GREAT BOTANIST.

PROF. ASA GRAY, OF HARVARD COLLEGE.

LIKE the shock which is caused by the death of some dear friend, was the sensation experienced by many of us on seeing the announcement of the death of Prof. Asa Gray, the most widely known and esteemed of all modern botanists. How many of us conceived our first love for Botanical Science through the study of his "Lessons in Botany," and in later years find in his "Structural and Systematic Botany," a rich treasury of information. And because the study of Botany has contributed so much to the progress of Horticulture, revealing to us the nature of plant life, and thus placing us in a position to the better care for the useful, and to more effectually destroy the injurious, such as the apple scab, the plum knot, the grape

mildew, etc., therefore we consider it quite within our province to pay a last tribute to one so noted in this department. His death occurred at his home in Cambridge, Mass., on the 31st of January last, of paralysis. He was the son of a farmer, and was born in Oneida County, N. Y., in 1810. While still a medical student at Fairfield, he became acquainted by correspondence with Dr. John Torrey, Professor of Chemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, who was also a writer on Botanical Science. Through this acquaintance it was that Prof. Gray received much encouragement in a line which soon became his chief and special study, and which has opened up for him so brilliant a career. For thirty years, from 1842

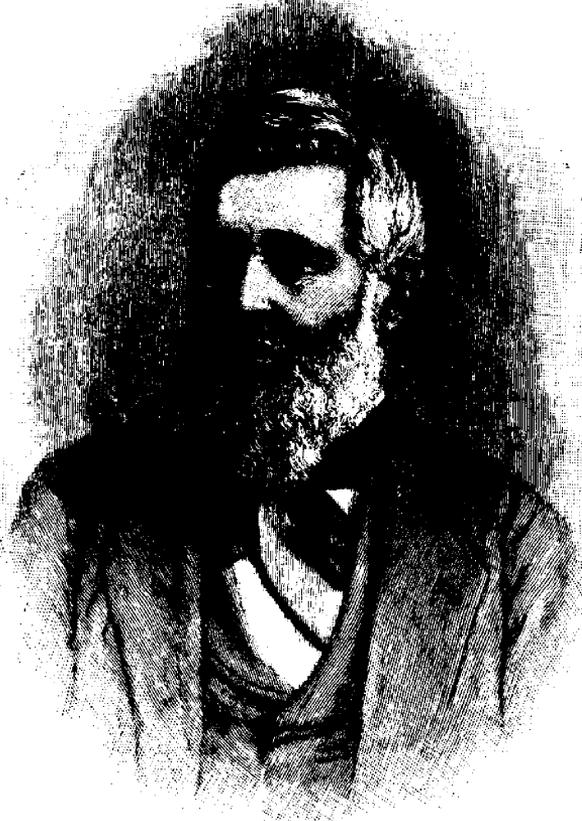


FIG. 38.—PROF. ASA GRAY.

until 1872, he was Professor of Botany at Harvard and director of the Botanic gardens. During this time, he collected and prepared a magnificent herbarium of 200,000 plants, which he afterward donated to the college. We have no room here to refer to his numerous and valuable works, which will still remain to hand down his name to future generations. Prof. Gray was a farmer's boy, and his achievements illustrate the possibilities within reach of the industrious aspirant whether

he be rich or poor, city or country born.

Through the courtesy of the *American Florist* (of Chicago), we are able to give our readers a most excellent engraving of Doctor Gray, which was originally prepared at a cost of some eighty dollars. It represents to us a genial face and an amiable disposition, such as one might expect to find in one who makes Nature his study, and who recognises in Nature's beauties the handiwork of Nature's God.

STRAWBERRIES.—OLD AND NEW.

BY JOHN LITTLE GRANTON, ONT.

PROBABLY no department of horticulture has received greater attention within the last decade than strawberry culture. The production of new varieties by cross fertilization between those bearing the largest and those of the finest flavored, has engaged the attention of the most scientific and careful cultivators, until this noble fruit has been brought nearly to the ideal of perfection.

The strawberry, among fruits, is more than the rose among flowers. I love it. I have a fondness for the broad leaves that defy the frosty breath of winter, for the pure white blossoms that cheer us first in spring, and for the fruit that breathes the perfume of paradise. Man may construct steamships and railroads, disembowel the earth for ores, measure the mountains of the moon, and make his voice heard across old ocean, but *God* alone can make a strawberry.

There are many things to learn in connection with growing the strawberry, and the most experienced growers are always learning; still this need not deter the beginner from entering upon an occupation which is delightful alike for the young, middle-aged and the old.

Small fruit growing has many advantages over any other occupation. A poor man, woman or child can engage in it and become his own employer. Women have made successful florists, and can make still more successful fruit growers. The labor is light, pleasant, and healthful. It brings one in contact with nature when she is at her best. When wintry winds howl and the earth is locked in icy fetters, the fruit grower can use his well-earned leisure as suits him best. If rain stops his work it is little matter, for the thousand rootlets of his plants are working for him day and night.

In growing strawberries, use rich soil, give good culture and grow in matted rows, not too wide. Hill culture is not profitable for market purposes. Plant in spring. I would advise beginners to set few varieties, and such as Crescent, May King, Covil, Ontario and Mount Vernon for medium early; and Manchester and Sucker State for late. The first three are the earliest berries grown; the Ontario has no white tips. I was the first to fruit it in Canada, and those who have it with white tips have not the Ontario.

For others who like something large, beautiful, and grand, I will head the list with two of Crawford's seedlings, viz.: Summit and Crawford (not for sale); next, Jessie, Bubach, Logan, and Ohio. I saw the Jessie and seventy other seedlings alongside of it in June last at Mr. Loudon's home in Wisconsin. I have seen many a grand strawberry sight, but that excelled anything I ever saw; they lay in heaps there as large as the peach and plum, and not a small berry among them.

If spared, as I am testing over twenty new seedlings, and have fruited some of them twice, I will give to any subscriber to THE HORTICULTURIST who would like it, the truth, and only the truth about them. They do not get any favor shown them more than the ordinary kinds receive, such as Crescent and others. There are some of them that will displace many that are now pushed to the front. When the berry season comes, if spared, will be pleased to have a visit from you, Mr. Editor, or others who are interested in the strawberry.

My plantation is not large, but I have the largest number of seedlings in the country.

7th March, 1888.

HORTICULTURAL REMINISCENCES.

BY GEORGE LESLIE, TORONTO, ONT.

THINKING it would be of interest to the readers of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST to know something of the beginning of planting and fruit growing in Ontario, when nurserymen and seedsmen were very few and very far between, I take the liberty of jotting down and sending you a few remembrances of those early days. Having received a few orders from some gentlemen in Toronto for trees and plants, and being requested by them to go to the United States and bring back some nursery stock for sale, I made a journey to New York in October, 1838. When I arrived there, I was directed to the Harlem Nursery, owned by Mr. Parmentier. I went there at once, and found he had a good assortment of ornamental trees and shrubs, but no fruit trees of any kind, except some dwarf pears. I bought some ornamental trees and shrubs, and then went to Wm. Reid's nursery, Murray Hill, N.Y., where I purchased some apple and cherry trees. I then went to Wm. Smith's seed store on Broadway, New York, where I purchased a modest stock of seeds and a few Norway Spruce, fifteen inches in pots, the first Spruce that had been imported from the Old Country for sale. I next visited the nursery of Buell & Wilson, at Albany, N.Y. It was a small concern, they just beginning business. They had a good stock of plums and moss roses, of which I purchased a few. I then went to Rochester, where there

were no nurseries at that time, except a very small one about one acre, just started by Samuel Moulson, at Bull's Head. Buffalo street. I went to see his place, but he had nothing that suited me. Messrs. Boardman & Kelly were then commencing a nursery business at Brighton, about three miles east of Rochester, but they had nothing large enough for my purpose. I was informed that Asa Rowe had a nursery at Greece, five miles south-west of Rochester. I visited his establishment, and found he had some nice apples and cherries, but no plums or pears. I bought some apples and cherries from Mr. Rowe, who was a fine genial man. I had all my purchases packed and shipped to Rochester. I came with them to the east side of the river, near the bridge where horse tramway ended. Came by tramway to the landing, three miles from Rochester, where there were 1,000 steps going down to the river. A tramway, worked by horse-power, conveyed passengers down to the landing and up to the street, one car going up while the other went down. There was then no landing at Charlotte. I stayed at the landing a day and a-half, waiting the arrival of Capt. Voller's schooner, the only vessel then plying between Rochester and Toronto. I got my packages on board the schooner, and after twenty hours' sail arrived in Toronto. The next spring I made another trip in search of nursery stock, of which I will give you an account again.

GIRDLED TREES.

BY S. F. MORSE, MILTON.

EVERY now and then somebody tells, through the press, how to repair this injury. Diagrams are given showing how to insert the bowed "twigs" or "sprouts," see figures 1 and 2), looking when done like

the curved meatless ribs of something already dead or of some strange fossil not yet classified. Many years ago I abandoned this clumsy mode for the following reasons:—1st. The slips inserted to conduct the sap from being

bowed outwardly, are liable to be displaced by the passing plow, harrow, cultivator, or even animals or careless persons. 2nd. The slips are in that form too much exposed to the weather, and in danger of drying out. 3rd. A large hollow or space is formed between the curvature of the slips and disbarked trunk wherein wet collects, remains, and establishes decay. My mode, practised for years, is as follows: Take *straight*, vigorous, well-ripened wood, of last year's growth—draw with pencil and straight-edge two vertical and parallel lines, one-half inch apart on the gnawed trunk, and for two

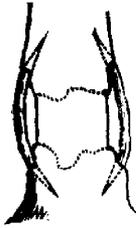


FIG. 39.



FIG. 40.

inches above and below. With a half inch gouge take out the gnawed wood between the parallel lines to a depth sufficient to about half-bury the slip; next, with a sharp knife, cut through the bark on the parallel lines an inch-and-a-half or two inches above and below the groove made with the gouge,

with a half-inch chisel lift carefully, but do not destroy or break the tongue of the bark between these parallel lines. If early in the season the bark will not readily peel and the sharp chisel must be used to separate the liber or inner vital bark from the wood, yet a few fibres remaining and still adhering to the wood will do no harm. Form the slip thus:—

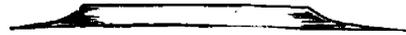


FIG. 41.

Lay the shorter side in the groove above named bringing the searfed or feathered ends to rest upon the living albumen above and below, bring down the tongue of the living bark that was raised with the chisel upon the ends, fastening firmly with strips of old leather, kept in place with carpet tacks. Iron is not unfriendly to the apple wood; besides, as growth proceeds they will be thrown out. Wax well to make air and rain proof. When the girdling has been done near enough to the ground to admit of banking up with earth, I use no wax at the lower insertion. Done in this manner, success is certain—the slip acquiring a thickness of from one to two inches the first season, and causing the tree at that part to look fluted and neat—almost ornamental compared to the old way.

THE MILLS.—A NEW GRAPE.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, for the accompanying cut of the new grape, which is offered for sale this spring for the first time. The Mills is a Canadian seedling and was raised by W. H. Mills, of Hamilton, Ont., a gentleman who has in time past done much to forward the interests of our Association. The object was to pro-

duce a variety possessing the high qualities of the foreign grape, in addition to the vigor and productiveness of a native, and in this it appears that Mr. Mills has been successful. It is a cross between the Muscat Hamburg and the Creveling, and the berry is large, jet black, and covered with a thick bloom. The flesh is described as firm, meaty, juicy, breaking with a

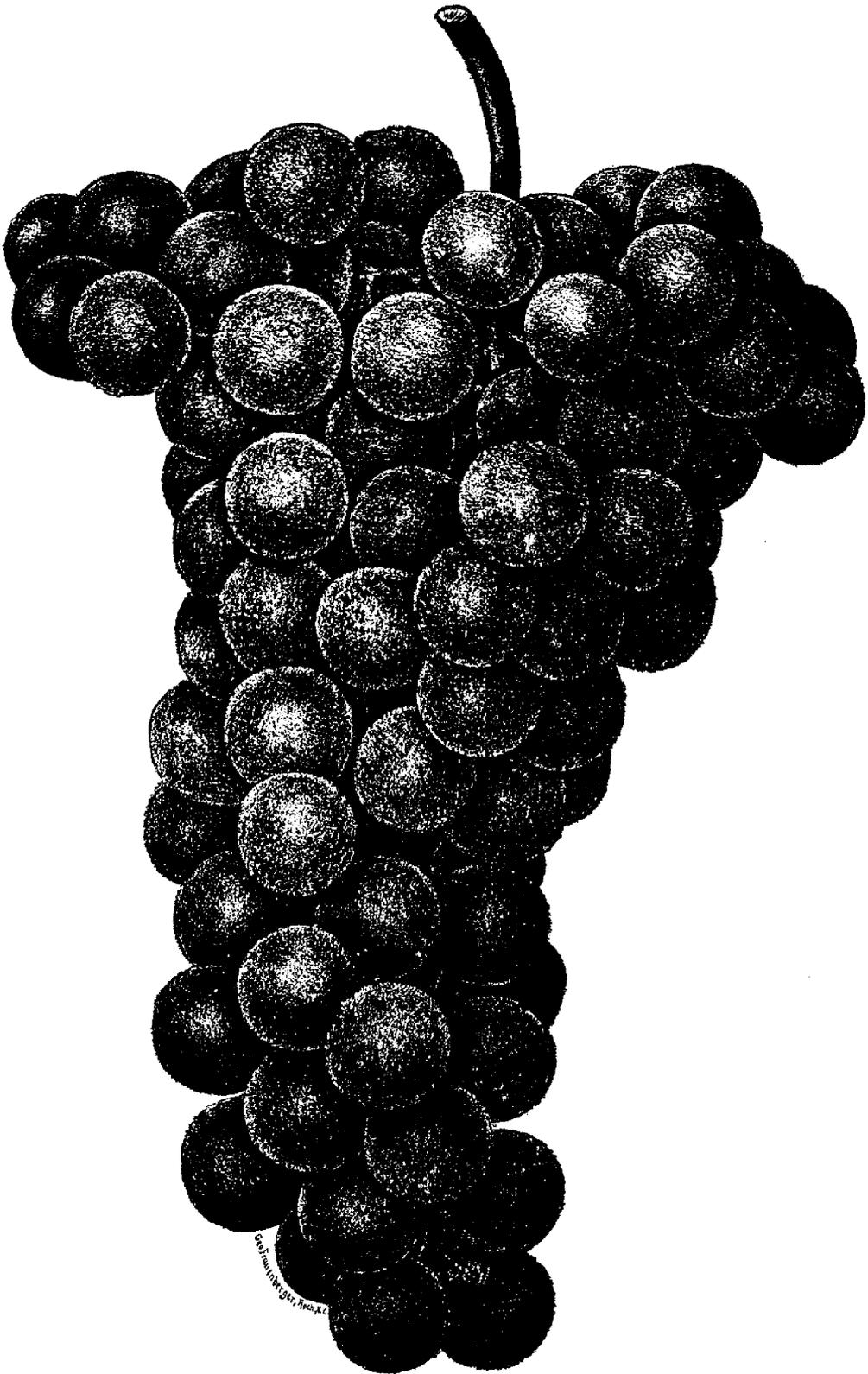


FIG. 42.—THE MILLS.—A NEW GRAPE.

rich, sprightly flavor. The skin thick; berries adhere firmly to the peduncle. The bunch is very large, compact, shouldered, some clusters weighing over twelve ounces. The vine is said to be vigorous, and productive; foliage large and healthy. The time of

ripening is about with the Concord, and it is a long keeper.

We shall be pleased if the experience of Canadian fruit growers should prove it to be what the description leads us to expect, one of the best of black grapes for dessert purposes.

SCHOOL DECORATION.

BY N. ROBERTSON, SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT GROUNDS, OTTAWA.

I WAS very much pleased with some remarks that were made by members of your Fruit Growers' Association at its meeting in Ottawa, over this subject. It is one that needs stirring up. I happened to be placed in a school in Scotland where School Decoration was made one of the principal features. When I look back on the appearance of the school, now many years ago, and compare it with our present country schools, for to them do my remarks most apply, it makes one feel sad. Where the very first branch of intellectual teaching should be exemplified, what do we find? delapidated, untidy surroundings, where tidiness and neatness should exist, and make a lasting impression of tidy habits adorning their future homes through life. We are very apt to forget that those early impressions cling to us with more tenacity than many other circumstances in life, and have a bearing in moulding our habits more than those received at any other time. They should not be placed on a level with things we see, and do at more mature age.

Now I will give you a short synopsis of how this school decoration was done at the school at which I was fortunate in being a scholar. It was situated sixteen miles from the city of Aberdeen, Scotland, and called the Kemnay Academy (Kemnay being the parish name). The teacher was a self-made man and devoid of all formality

of forms, which often become tedious to children, as well as older persons. Surrounding that school was the playground, and the decoration and keeping of it was made a means of profit and pleasure in play hours. There were about two acres of ground, which was more than the general school allowance. In what way he got this addition, I am not able to say, but suppose it must have been through the generosity of the proprietor who took a lively interest in advancing education. And well might he be proud of the results, for I cannot compare that school to anything less than the appearance of a gentleman's residence, and an ornament to his estate. You can imagine the effect it produced on those little hearts, entering such a place, made beautiful by their own hands, for they planted and kept it in order in their play hours, a source of much pleasure to them. They felt proud of such a school.

Now, the very first objection that will be raised against school decoration will be expense, often a great barrier to instruction, but here this objection does not exist, for the children did the work and furnished the material for decoration. All the teacher had to say was, "if you have any trees or plants that you would like to see growing here bring them along and I will find a place for them, provided there are not too many of one kind." Numerous were the memorial trees and shrubs brought to that lawn. It is hardly

necessary to say with what delight children will do such a thing as this, for we all know how they enjoy it. Fruit growing was the subject least taught but not neglected, for many specimens were cultivated on the back part of the ground. The lawn was frequently made the schoolroom in fine days, for he would take those children out doors to learn and recite their lessons.

I do not give you all this as being a sample of Scotch schools. I am sorry to say that they were much on a par with the general appearance of our Canadian country ones. This was an exception to all others. Neither do I give it as an example and say all others should follow it. I certainly do, where this could be done, but there are many schools so weak that it could hardly be within their power. But there is none which could not have trees and shrubs to add beauty and pleasure to the surroundings. Another point that may be argued against this work, and has been urged, is that the children will soon destroy it. Well, all that I can say in vindication of this is, I never saw any tendency to do this, not even a foot-print in the borders of flower beds that surrounded the walks. I have often thought that such training might be a means of preventing much destruction on roadways and streets in cities now done by children who have

never been taught to respect lawns and borders.

Now, what can be done about this matter? Let the attention of the Minister of Education be called to it. He, being a man of enterprise, will see at once the necessity for this much needed improvement. Were the same means provided as are now in existence for planting trees on roadways, that itself would be quite an improvement in the regulations, and also that a certain quantity of land shall be necessary to each school according to the number of scholars that attend it. Even prizes might be offered to schools having the best and neatest kept grounds in each municipality. No one can fathom the immense benefits that will accrue to children from such things as this.

AN ORNAMENTAL MOUND, which in its simplicity, we are satisfied would prove handsome, is thus described by an English exchange:—"The centre is occupied by the German Flags (*Iris*), intermixed with Striped Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and the rather steep sides of rocks are clothed with irregular clumps of Perennial Candytuft, (*Iberis sempervirens*), flowering freely. The white flowers of the latter, the blue flowers of the flags, and the white-striped leaves of the grass harmonize most pleasingly."

NOTES ON MARCH NUMBER.

BY D. CAMPBELL, LONDON, ONT.

IN looking over the March number of THE HORTICULTURIST I see Mr. Maddock says the gooseberry is often stripped by the caterpillar. That should not be, or there will be a poor crop next year. I prefer putting hellebore on with water, as it can be done at any time, a tablespoonful to a patent pail of water, and put on with a fine rose sprinkling can. Also, I find a teaspoonful enough of paris green to a patent

pail of water to kill any insects. Even that much is too strong for hops, for mine were browned with it by one application.

As to asparagus, I am afraid Mr. Bruce's directions would keep many from growing it. As I have been very successful with it, and I will give my mode: I manured and trenched two spades deep, and laid it off in four feet beds, three lines in a bed, old country

fashion, putting the plants one foot apart in the line and the crowns three inches under ground. The second batch I planted I merely digged the ground with plenty of manure, having lines eighteen inches apart, and planting a foot apart in the line, using two-year-old plants, though one-year-old would give less work. I commenced to cut a few stray ones the second year. The third year I cut all until June. I let them grow up the first week of July, as soon as peas became plentiful. And as soon as the seed ripened I cut down and top-dressed them with about six inches of manure. In the spring I take off the roughest, and put on one bushel of salt to one-eighth of an acre, the size of my patch, and with a fork stir up

the surface, not to interfere with the plants. You will not have any trouble with weeds after so much salt. I continued that course for twenty-five years, and my asparagus constantly improved. I have often put as few as five stalks in a five-cent bunch, sometimes only three. My land was sandy loam. I sold out the land in building lots several years ago, but they have the asparagus as good as ever, and when digging a cellar the roots were down six feet. I made \$100 a year off my asparagus, and \$100 off a patch of gooseberries of about the same size or rather less, often having half-a-bushel on one bush. I forgot to say that when I ceased cutting the asparagus, I hoed and raked the ground level, giving it a good appearance.

AN IMMENSE FOSSIL TREE

BY J. H. PANTON, M.A., GUELPH, ONT.

IN a former communication I described an immense vine now growing in the Vinery at Hampton Court; in this, I purpose placing before the reader some information about a fossil tree, said to be the largest ever found. It was discovered in the lower coal measures in a quarry at Clayton, near Halifax, Yorkshire, England, and attracted so much attention that people travelled miles to see it, in fact, the proprietor of the quarry made more from exhibiting it, as found in its stony bed, than from the stone quarried near it. A penny admission was all that was asked, and thousands of people threaded their way up the hill to the quarry to get a glimpse of this monster, a silent monument of the rank vegetation that characterized the forests of the coal-forming period in the earth's history. The writer had the pleasure of seeing this wonderful relic in August of last year. It was discovered twelve

feet below the surface of quarried rock. The stump was imbedded in sandy shale, while the roots rested on a bed of soft blue shale, which some of them penetrate.

The stump is three and three-fourths feet high, diameter one way being four and one-half feet, the other three and five-sixths feet, thus forming a sort of oval outline.

The roots are by far the most interesting, and serve to identify it as belonging to the genus *Stigmara*.

The specimen is admitted to be the finest of its kind hitherto obtained in any part of the world. It demonstrates that *Stigmara* is a root and not a root-stock; that the four primary roots radiate from the base of an erect stem; that each of these roots divide into two forks close to the base of the tree, and that beyond the second branching no further divisions take place; from that the undivided roots extend to considerable though varied distances.

The following measurements, taken

with great care, will give an idea of this gigantic fossil wonder:—

Eight roots.	Diameter close to stump.		Distance from stump to branching of roots.		Distance from fork to end.				Greatest length of root.
					Right fork.		Left fork.		
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	
1	1	9	4		9	6	13		17
2	1	5½	4		8		6	6	12
3	1	4	5		7		4		12
4	1	4	4		2		4	6	8
5	1	5½	7		1	6	3		10
6	1	6	5	6	3		4	6	10
7	1	5	7	6	3		2		10
8	1	5	7		9	6	7		16

The diameter of the area covered by the branching of the roots is, from north to south, twenty-nine feet six inches, and from east to west, twenty-eight feet, giving a superficial area of 826 square feet.

So here we find a tree, which has been entombed millions of years among the shale in which it is embedded, now recalling to us the waving forests of carboniferous plants whose remains, during vast periods of time, have changed to coal—forests in which every shade of green was present but not a single flower. Animal life was represented by comparatively few species, and the climate was adapted to the production of a rapid, luxuriant vegetable growth; which, as it accumulated, changed to coal, and thus formed the vast sources of the energy required in our progressive age—coal as the bottled energy of the past, and to-day we are taking it out from the vast storehouses (mines) to apply it to practical purposes.

To the most indifferent, this "stoney tree," or better, stump, becomes an object of great interest, and to the contemplative mind, one of great instruction.



FIG. 43.—AN IMMENSE FOSSIL TREE.



ROSE NOTES.

BY THE HON. MRS. LAMBERT, NEW EDINBURGH.

(Concluded from April number.)

HER MAJESTY, which created such a sensation in the rose world some years ago, seems, from all accounts, never to have bloomed in Canada. I have one bush that came from England two years ago. It has grown vigorously from the first, and last summer it blossomed. The bud was very much larger than the buds in the colored picture with which we are all familiar, in fact it was so much larger than any rosebud I have ever seen, that a perfectly true description of it would be quite incredible. Hundreds of people came to see the marvel, and the rose itself proved quite in keeping with the bud, the beautiful reddish tea foliage making a lovely finish to the spray when in its full beauty. But the mildew! worse, even, than the Giant de Battailles. It yet remains to be seen whether this perfectly peerless rose can be grown in a wholesome condition. If not Mr. Evans, of Philadelphia, who paid so much for a monopoly of Her Majesty, will have more greatness in his possession than may be to his benefit.

Merveille de Lyons (that splendid, huge, hardy, perpetual, perfect, white rose), has now been quite long enough in cultivation to be more generally known than it appears to be in Canada, and the roses that our grandmothers grew, and which can never be other than lovely, are still enumerated among the suitable roses for us to grow,—of course they are, but we all know that,

and now we are asking for the results of experience as to the most reliable of the newer varieties. George Paul, Ellwanger and Barry, Peter Henderson all give lists which no collection should fail to contain. These lists all differ somewhat, but *all agree* that Charles Lefebre, the large, fragrant, dark velvet vigorous rose is the grandest of roses, and that everyone should have all that Baroness Rothschild sisterhood, its members being Mabel Morrison, White Baroness, Merveille de Lyons, Baroness de Rothschild, Mme. Massicault and Baroness Nathaniel de Rothschild. Also that La France must be included, and Alfred Colomb, and Capt Christy and Pierre Notting and Magna Charta and— but what is the use of enumerating lovely and inviting varieties on which we might wish to try our skill, when the nurserymen have combined against us; and it is simply impossible to know what rose you have until it blooms. The fact that you order Louis von Houtte, and that the rose you get is labelled Louis von Houtte is of no importance whatever, for, is not Louis von Houtte a difficult rose to grow and to propagate, and does not the bloom of a Jacqueminot correspond to the printed description of a Louis von Houtte; and if you don't know the difference you will be highly pleased at your own success in growing a rose which all authorities pronounce a difficult floricultural task, and so both you and the nurseryman are benefited,

are you not? And is he not really after all a real benefactor—opinions may differ, we rose lovers don't agree with him, but there seems to be no help for us, the business is practised so systematically and so universally. If you order a Mme. Norman as I did one season from three different firms in Canada and the United States—you will be likely to get, as I got from all three, *Coquette des Blanches*. I had already five *Coquettes*, but that was of no consequence to the noble army of nurserymen, who, in their wisdom had decided that it was better for me to have another than the frail and lovely Norman. For *Gabrielle Luizet* I get *La France*, and would one not be very unreasonable not to think that quite near enough. For A. K. Williams, Francois Michelin, Julius Finger, Countesse de Sereneye, etc. You never are sure what you will get—anything will do for an order for one of these. I must, however, make one notable exception—I have never had a rose untrue to name from Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, but their prices and the duty and freight make their roses just

double the price of English roses, while their stock of the new roses is quite too far behind the times. After years of martyrdom I have found relief and satisfaction, and reliability and cheapness in English roses, which, at one shilling (24 cents) each, for large bushes (guaranteed true to name), when several combine an order, supply one with the very choicest stock at nett price of forty three cents per bush. George Paul, of Cheshunt, Herts Co., Wm. Paul, of Waltham Cross, Herts Co., Benjamin Cant, of Colchester, Essex Co., and Geo. Prince, of Oxford, Oxford Co., (who grows exclusively on seedling briar), may be implicitly relied upon.

In closing I would recommend those who have failed to coax such weaklings into vigor as Louis von Houtte, Marie Bauman, A. K. Williams, Julius Finger, Francois Michelin, Xavier Olibo, and a host of other beauties, when grown on their own roots, or on the manetti, let me beg them to get these from Prince on the seedling briar and await the result without fear of disappointment.

CULTIVATION OF ASTERS.

BY HERMANN SIMMERS, TORONTO.

NEARLY every person is more or less acquainted with the growing of Asters; but to give a brief sketch of their general mode of culture is all I wish to attempt, hoping that the reader may benefit by the advice. In the majority of cases the amateur sows the seed in the open air as soon as the weather is warm enough, but that way is not so sure of obtaining a perfect flower, because in many cases the plant has hardly time to thoroughly develop before our early frosts come and nip them off, also because in sowing in the open air the plants are often not transplanted

from the place where they have been sown, and they throw up a small stem, with a small flower. The sower frequently blames the seed, when on comparison with others he finds his flowers so much smaller. In order to obtain a robust, healthy plant the best mode is to start the seed in the house, conservatory or hotbed. Asters rank amongst the most beautiful of half-hardy annuals, and whether grown in pots for the window, in beds as decorative plants, in choice soils for the production of exhibition flowers, or in out-of-the-way spots, to furnish an abundance of cut flowers, they are full of beauty and

usefulness. The Aster includes several divisions; German catalogues representing as many as twenty-five distinct types, but the most striking of them are the flat petalled reflexed blooms as represented by the Victorias; the incurved varieties as found in the Paeony-flowered section; the quilled forms as found in the globe-flowered strain; and the dwarf or miniature forms, comprised in the bouquet classes, which are more effective as edgings to beds than the taller variety. As a half-

Paeony-flowered Aster, either in collection form as they are originally sent out from Europe, or the mixture of same, as the most satisfactory for the amateur to grow. It is well to pinch out the centre buds in all plants as soon as developed (they are generally semi-double) and also to thin the remaining ones down to about four or five for each plant, and in consequence these will be perfect blooms. If the plants have been placed in a separate bed, and they show a tendency to begin

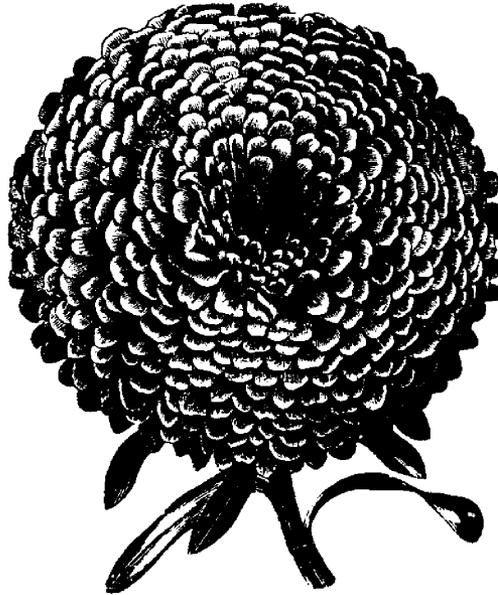


FIG. 44.—VICTORIA ASTER.

hardy annual, seed should properly be sown in a hotbed in the month of April, and when large enough they should be pricked out into a cool frame, and planted in the open air about first of June, with nice balls of soil, and be placed in beds as required. For an ordinary flower-bed the soil should be dug deeply, and receive a good dressing of manure; into this the plant should be placed about one foot apart each way, and by the end of August a mass of brilliant flowers is sure to follow. I would strongly recommend Truffault's

flowering about the middle of August, a thin shading may be erected over the bed, in consequence of which they will retain their beauty until the frost comes. I have seen this tried by lovers of the Aster, and can strongly recommend it to those wishing to keep them flowering for an extended period. Seed should not be saved from the plants and grown on the same soil the following season. In order to obtain large and perfect flowers each season, seed should always be changed—in Asters more particularly so.



SUBSCRIPTION PRICE. \$1.00 per year, entitling the subscriber to membership of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario and all its privileges, including a copy of its valuable Annual Report, and a share in its annual distribution of plants and trees.

REMITTANCES by Registered Letter are at our risk. Receipts will be acknowledged upon the address label.

OUR JOURNAL is still too small for our needs. Every month a large amount of valuable matter is crowded out for want of space. We look to our readers for continued effort in extending our subscription list, so that the means may be in our hands for enlarging our journal by adding more pages.

BACK NUMBERS may still be had, so that new subscriptions may all begin with January number of the current year. Should any one fail to receive his copy regularly, a card sent to this office will secure all missing numbers. The mailing is done from Toronto, and we shall be glad to be informed of any irregularity.

THE SUMMER MEETING of our Association is to be held in Picton, Prince Edward County, about the first week in July next. Questions for the Question Drawer of that meeting may be sent in at any time to the Secretary, at Grimsby, Ont. They will be answered by the most competent men present and add much to the interest of the meeting. Mr. P. C. Dempsey, director for Prince Edward County, writes that

there is every reason to expect a successful meeting. The programme, with other particulars, will appear in June number.

A DOMINION FRUIT GROWERS' CONVENTION.—As a result of a conference between the directors of our Association and the representatives of the Fruit Growers' Association of Quebec, who met us at Ottawa last February, it was resolved to attempt a grand convention of fruit growers from all parts of the Dominion, to be held some time next winter in Montreal. With this in view, it was ordered by our directorate that since in the opinion of this Association it is very desirable that a convention of all fruit growers' associations and of all interested in the progress of horticulture in Canada should be held at an early date to confer with regard to this one of the most important industries of our Dominion, a committee from this Association be appointed to consult with the Fruit Growers' Association of the Province of Quebec, asking that body to take the initiative in the matter. It was

further ordered that the Executive Committee constitute the Committee of Consultation. Since this action a copy of a resolution passed by the Fruit Growers' Association of the Province of Quebec has been received, approving of our action, and appointing a committee of preliminary arrangements.

Notes and Comments.

PROSPECTS FOR APPLE GROWERS.—We do not believe in describing the bright side of fruit culture and keeping in the dark the many failures and disappointments which are the common lot of us all. But we do condemn as very foolish the cutting down of a good apple orchard in order to devote the land to any other crop. We believe the prospects to-day for profitable apple culture are as good as ever, but in order to make the best of it, more care than formerly needs to be paid to selection of varieties and to culture. Apples just now are very high in price in London, England, and any one who has fine russets to forward will realize long prices. Indeed, according to the *Horticultural Times*, choice apples are now retailing there at from \$1.50 to \$4 per bushel. Now if our Canadian growers could but place their choice fruit more directly into the hands of retail merchants in England, instead of going through the hands of so many middlemen, each of whom pockets a share of the profits, then apple culture would soon prove one of the leading industries of our land.

CROP PROSPECTS.—As we stated in last number, most of the peach buds are killed at Grimsby, possibly one in a dozen having escaped. Mr. E. Morden, of Niagara Falls, reports them all sound there. Mr. Henry Willson gives the same report, concerning Winona. We shall be pleased to receive reports of fruit prospects from all parts of the Dominion. We want this journal to become a means of reliable communica-

tion between fruit-growers and fruit-buyers.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE at Guelph deserves to be better known and appreciated. It is particularly adapted to the needs of young Canadians who have been brought up on farms and need to know the scientific principles of farming and fruit growing, and to be prepared for the more intelligent operation of these departments. Prof. J. H. Panton, M. A., has charge of the classes in horticulture, botany and entomology, and is evidently creating much enthusiasm among the boys in these subjects. Such subjects as the plum knot, wheat rust, etc., are taught by him in a practical manner by the aid of a powerful microscope, which shows the minute spores, and, indeed, all stages of the development of these tiny organisms in the clearest possible manner. The students too are trained to mount subjects for themselves and to purchase and manipulate microscopes, so that they are able not only to follow out the whole life history of such minute fungi, but also to pursue independent investigations. We are in an age of specialties. The successful farmer and fruit grower of the future will be those who take advantage of such opportunities of training for their work as may be had by a course at the Agricultural College at Guelph.

ARBOR DAY.—The first Friday in May has been set aside by the regulations of the Education Department as Arbor Day for the beautifying of school grounds. We venture to hope it will become yearly more popular. Trustees may do a good deal in the way of encouraging the profitable observance of this day, but upon the teachers themselves, after all, must this responsibility chiefly rest. The difficulty is that the teachers themselves as a rule know little, if anything, about trees and shrubs, or about laying out school grounds with walks, lawns, or flower beds, and before they

can generate in their pupils an enthusiasm over these most practical and useful studies, they must themselves be trained. Why should not every school yard in the Province be ample enough to contain labelled specimens in groups of the most of our indigenous trees and shrubs, and in other respects be a pattern to every farmer of how best to decorate his lawn.

Bulletin 33 of the Agricultural College of Michigan, contains some useful hints for Arbor Day, and among others a most interesting exercise for school children for that day, which is both interesting and instructive. It is entitled a Convention of Forest Trees, in which the White Oak is elected chairman and calls upon the various other forest trees for an account of themselves. The exercise is varied with music referred to as the singing of the birds, and quotations from poets and other literati upon the various trees and their beauties.

THE MANN APPLE.—Dr. Hoskins, of Vermont, says of this apple, that the statement of its being as hardy as the Duchess is utterly false, as it will not endure a severe winter there. We have never been much taken with this apple, for though an early and abundant bearer, and a good keeper, the fruit is by no means attractive, and is liable to drop early from the tree.

PEACH YELLOWS.—The experience of many American peach growers seems to favor the use of bone and potash fertilizers as a specific cure for the Yellows. Mr. J. H. Hale, of Connecticut; Mr. E. Minch, of the New Jersey Horticultural Society, and Mr. Baker, all agree in stating that they have been successful in curing Yellows in this way.

BRANCHES OF THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.—At a farmers' institute, lately held on Long Island, the question was raised, "Why should there not be a

branch of the New York experimental station upon Long Island?" A similar question might well be raised in Canada. While it is most important to test hardy fruits, it is quite evident that in the Department of Horticulture there are a very large number of tender fruits that cannot be tested at all at Ottawa. In this respect, there is a very large part of Ontario which can receive no benefit from the experiments in this line, until some branch fruit gardens are established in at least two or three different sections of our Province.

PARIS GREEN may be used in much less quantities than is generally supposed, and still be effective. The R. N. Y. has thoroughly mixed one pound of Paris green with an entire barrel of plaster, and found it effectual in killing potato beetles.—The writer uses only from three to four ounces to fifty gallons of water for spraying apples for the Codling moth, and finds it effective.

THE INDUSTRY gooseberry has been found to wildew at the New York Experiment Station.

RUSSIAN CHERRIES.—At the Toledo meeting of the Ohio Horticultural Society, Mr. Weltz stated that he had fruited some Russian cherries during the previous summer, and found them a good fruit, of the Morello character. As they ripened slowly and were much preyed upon by the birds, he had tried protecting the tree with musquito bar netting, which he found it easy to do as the trees were mere shrubs. He found the fruit very sour until fully ripe. The same gentleman also spoke of the Russian tree gooseberry, which was grafted on the Ural mountain currant several feet from the ground. He had seen trees two inches in diameter and seven feet high, bearing two or three bushels of berries as large as a walnut.

A NEW STRAWBERRY.—Mr. Thomas Laxton, seed and novelty grower, Bed-

ford, England, sends us a colored plate of a very fine new English strawberry of enormous size, called *Laxton's "Noble."* In form it is nearly globular, of a shining crimson color, and a rich vinous flavor. This strawberry, it is claimed, brings from 75 cts. to \$1.00 per lb. in Covent Garden. We might indulge in golden dreams had we such a market in Canada.

THE WHITE PINE.—Mr. H. Mayr, of Tokio, Japan, writes in the *Garden and Florist*, lauding *Pinus Strobus*, as the most valuable of Conifers for rapidity of growth, and for an annual increment of wood. In Germany, where there is a pure forest of this pine, 300 acres in extent, portions of which are 120 years of age, it has been found that at the age of eighty years the White Pine equals in size a Scotch Pine of 120 years' growth; and further, that at the age of seventy years a forest of White Pine gives an annual increase of three cords of wood per acre, while one of the Scotch Pine gives only a trifle over two cords.

FRUIT REPORTS.—An unusual quantity of dishonest packing appears to have been practised by apple growers and shippers, during the past winter, and as is usual such a practice brings its own punishment. Heavy shipments of inferior fruit faced up with two or three

layers of extra quality, have been made to England, owing to the great demand there for fine American fruit, but the sham was discovered and the shippers lost heavily. When will the lesson be learned, that even upon the low ground of policy alone it pays to be honest. First-class fruit is in good demand in Canadian as well as foreign markets, and fancy selections are now worth from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per barrel in our home markets.

THE TORONTO FRUIT MARKET.—Owing to energetic action of one of the directors of the F. G. A. of Ontario, and others, a much needed improvement in the accommodation for consignments of fruit is about to be carried out in Toronto. As is well known this is the great distributing point for the products of the fruit farms of Western Ontario; but hitherto, the accommodation for the reception and sale of Canadian fruits has been most contracted and inconvenient, while that for American fruit arriving by boat from Niagara at the wharf, was much more advantageous. The new fruit market is to occupy, for the present, the site of the present City Hall station, and will allow room for six fruit cars at a time alongside of a large platform, which is to be covered with a shed roof.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Nitrate of Soda as a Fertilizer.

38. I would like to hear a little about Nitrate of Soda. Will it pay to buy it to use on trees and plants, and how is it done?

THIS substance is a salt, somewhat resembling common salt. Chemically speaking it is a union of the protoxide of Sodium and Nitric acid. Large beds of it have been discovered at Tarapaca, in Northern Chili. It is very soluble in water, and may be applied to the land broadcast or dissolved in water.

If broadcast, the dampness soon dissolves it, and the first rain carries it down within reach of the roots of the plants. Mr. Joseph Harris, of Rochester, has tested this substance extensively, and claims that for early garden crops, 500 lbs. of Nitrate of Soda per acre has a greater effect than twenty-five tons of the best stable manure. Indeed, stable manure scarcely furnishes Nitrate early enough in spring to suit the wishes of the market gardener.

The market value of this fertilizer is about \$4.00 per 100 lbs. It would pay, according to Mr. Harris, to cover the whole garden, lawn, and fruit orchard, with 500 lbs. of Nitrate of Soda per acre, sown broadcast in the spring.

The Monkey Tree.

39. This last summer when in England and Scotland I was much struck with a tree I saw there, many of them in the neighborhood of London and Edinburgh, and even as far North as Oban on Kenara Sound at the West coast of Scotland. No one could give me the Botanical name for it, only knowing it as the "Monkey tree," a name given, because it is said to be the only tree a monkey cannot climb. It is an evergreen, of a most curious form, resembling a corkscrew, dark green in color, and the narrow

States. I had one here that I could not house, having grown to about ten feet high. It was dead in the spring, having been left outside for want of room. The most beautiful of the species is considered to be *Excelsa*, a native of the Norfolk Islands, but unless I had very large houses I could not go into this class of plants. I believe you could keep the *Araucaria* in a light cellar through the winter. They are unruly in a window. For lawn decoration there are few things that excel them. In England, and even in the South of Scotland, they are to be found, but sometimes they suffer in hard winters.

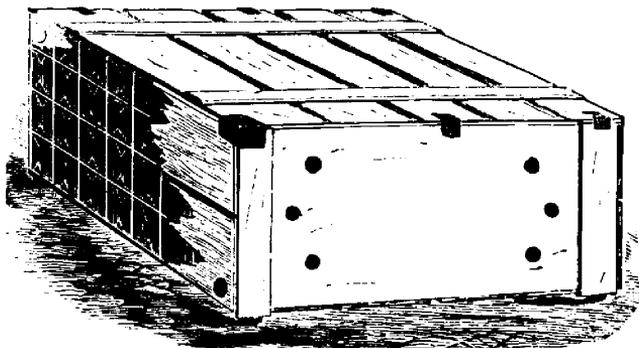


FIG. 45.—THE COCHRANE FRUIT CASE.

sharp pointed leaves much like our pines. I daresay you will know something of this tree and if it would grow in this country. Kindly mention it in *THE HORTICULTURIST* as soon as convenient, as if it would live through our winters, I would get some and decorate our lawn. Yours etc., S. H. SMALLMAN, *London, Ont.*

HAVING noticed one of these curious trees in the collection of Mr. N. Robertson, Supt. of the Govt. grounds, Ottawa, we have referred this question to him, and he gives the following reply.

Araucaria Imbricata is the Botanical name of the tree called the Monkey plant. Some of the species grow 200 feet high in their native country. This one is a native of Chili, natural Order Pinaceæ. No, it would not be hardy with you, as it is not so in the Northern

The Cochrane Fruit Case.

40. I notice in the *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST*, February, '88, p. 32, under "Wealthy Apple," you mention packing apples in the "Cochrane case" for shipping. Please describe the Cochrane case, and give your opinion of it? —J. F. WILSON, *Chatham.*

THIS case was invented by Mr. Geo. A. Cochrane, of Montreal, and was designed for carrying extra choice and tender fruits to market in the best possible manner. By the kindness of Mr. Cochrane we are able to show our readers an illustration of this case, which will serve a better purpose than words in describing it. There are four trays, divided into pockets according to the variety of the fruit to be packed, and each tray is set in and filled before adding the next. A company was

formed at one time for the manufacture of these cases, and shippers who used them found them well adapted to exportation of Duchess apples and choice fall pears. No doubt they would be most serviceable also for carrying large, selected Crawford peaches, indeed a similar case is used for this purpose in shipping into Philadelphia market. Mr. R. W. Shepherd, Montreal, says: "I have used the Cochrane case for five years, and packed all my finest specimens of Fameuse, Wealthy, and Winter St. Lawrence in them, and find it pays well. I have never averaged less than \$3.00 per case for these varieties. Last

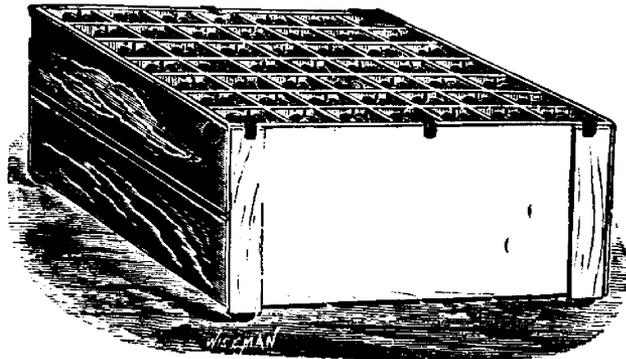


FIG. 46.—THE COCHRANE FRUIT CASE.

season I tried a couple of shipments of Winter St. Lawrence in cases to Liverpool and Glasgow, with satisfactory results. For extra fine specimens of fruit, it is certainly more advantageous to pack them in cases of this kind than in barrels.

Paris Green and Bees.

41. Will the use of Paris Green for the Codling moth be injurious to bees? I knew one hive of bees to die from the use of White Hellebore on currant bushes.—J. L., *West Zorra*.

No doubt an application of Paris Green in time of blossoming would be injurious to the bees. But it is not necessary to apply it at that time; on the other hand, it is more effectual immediately after blossoming time is over.

Grafting Laburnum.

42. I grafted a Laburnum on to the Locust or Acacia tree last spring, but I did not succeed in getting the scions to grow. Could you give any advice? I have an idea that the Laburnum might be got to flower in these parts in that way if anyone understood the grafting of it.—WM. DOWN, *Stratford, Ont.*

Reply by D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines.

I HAVE never attempted grafting Laburnum on Locust. The Laburnum grows so readily and rapidly from seed that there has been no object to be gained, even if successful. I do not believe that the Laburnum would be any more hardy growing on the Locust than on its own root. As both of these

trees belong to the same family (*Leguminosae*), it is possible that the Laburnum might be made to grow on the Locust.

The Great American.

43. Do you know of a strawberry called the Great American; is it an old or new variety?—JOHN LEONARD, *West Zorra*.

Rep'y by John Little, Granton.

THE Great American was one of Mr. Durands seedlings, and none of them have ever been of any value and have long dropped from the list of most catalogues; there is no one now offers it for sale. Subscribers can find it by addressing T. T. Lyons, South Haven, Michigan.

Rockery for Ferns.

44. Can you give me any hints as to the construction of a rockery for ferns?—W. F. B., Hamilton.

Reply by Francis Mason, Peterborough.

THIS may be constructed in a similar manner to other rockeries, the only difference being the situation and soil.

All ferns delight in shade and to have success with them, the rockery must be placed under trees or on the north side of a building, high edge or fence, and the soil to be of a peaty nature similar to what will be found where ferns are growing wild in the woods.

The wants of fern life are a cool, moist atmosphere, light soil for the roots to ramble through, and plenty of water, especially in hot, dry weather.

Tomatoes.

45. Are they most profitably grown in rich or poor soil, on trellises or on the ground?—J. C., Aultsville.

Reply by J. A. Bruce, Hamilton.

TOMATOES like moderately rich soil, it must be dry and warm, if low and damp the growth is too vigorous, and fruit late in maturing. For family gardens, I recommend trellis culture, especially where space is limited. For market purposes plant in hills three to four feet apart, and put about a peck of old rotten manure in each; if that cannot be obtained an excellent sub-

stitute is, say one pint of superphosphate of lime in each hill. The most profitable and saleable kinds are:—Livingston's Beauty, Paragon, Perfection, Favorite, Acme; Canada Victor, Trophy.

Celery.

46. Is it best grown in hotbeds or later in cold frame? Is the cutting off of tops of growing plants advantageous? Which are the best kinds? How is it best to pack for winter keeping?—J. C., Aultsville.

Reply by J. A. Bruce, Hamilton, Ont.

FOR early use sow seed in hotbeds, for fall or general crop sow in cold frames, and transplant when two to three inches high into rows, three inches between each plant and six inches between the rows. Cutting off the tops is usually resorted to when the plants get too tall or overgrown; it is an old custom, but do not think it necessary if the plants are in good form. The leading kinds are:—White Plume, for early crop; Paris Golden Yellow (large, solid), New Dwarf (large ribbed), Prince of Wales, Incomparable Dwarf Crimson, for general crop. For winter keeping, pack in rows well banked up with earth, an ordinary root cellar will answer. Large growers pack in pits in the open ground and ventilate with tiles. Constant care and attention is necessary to properly ventilate cellars or pits in order to prevent rotting.

OPEN LETTERS.**The English Apple Market.**

DEAR SIR,—Our Apple market for the last ten days has been very good, and Apples are at present much wanted, our supply being very short, and Canadians are conspicuous by their absence.

The current prices for Russetts are from 18/6 to about 32/; fair colored Baldwins much wanted, and fetch easily from 22/ to 28/, good kinds would fetch much more.

Up till recently our market has been flooded

with Nova Scotians which have been largely bought up by some speculators here. They arrived in large quantities, and the bulk of them arrived in very bad condition, and as these speculators had to realize quickly, prices were depressed all round, and since the realization of these our market is left bare, hence the demand now.

Yours very truly,

J. B. THOMAS.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, LONDON, ENG.

14th April, 1888.

Fruit in Manitoba.

SIR,—I have set out a variety of small fruits, strawberries, gooseberries, currants and grapes, all of which I think will succeed well with us here, and have also been experimenting with hardy apples, having now over one hundred apple-trees, two and three years old, all of which have stood the winter well, so far, but the alternate freezing and thawing in the spring being the crucial test, I am unable to say what the result will be.

Our greatest difficulty here is to get thoroughly reliable hardy trees, as many of the farmers and fruit fanciers who have attempted apple growing in the past, have been badly victimized by tree agents. Nearly all the old settlers here have spent a good deal of money in buying trees, but none have succeeded, either from above cause or through improper handling. To the nurserymen who can supply an apple-tree sufficiently hardy to stand the climate of the North-West, a fortune is waiting, and I firmly believe that of the number who are experimenting on this line, some one is bound to succeed. I may also say that all of my small fruits are laid down in the fall and covered, whilst the apple-trees are "mounded up" with earth. I will report to you in detail, the several varieties should they come through the winter with anything like success.

Wishing both your society and its journal the success they merit. I remain, etc.,

J. C. WAUGH.

MORDEN, MAN., Feb. 19, 1888.

News from Mr. Berckmans.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have been in the high pine lands of Southern Florida since beginning of February, with the hope of securing relief from bronchial trouble of some tenacity, and this I am now assured of, if one is to be the judge of his physical feelings. A day or two since, the mail brought me the March number of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST containing your very kind notice of myself. You are very good to your friends, and I thank you sincerely for this courteous compliment. Our friends here anticipate with pleasure to welcome the American Pomological Society in February next, and you will find that the promise made at Boston will be fulfilled to the letter. With best wishes, I am, dear sir,

Yours, respectfully,

P. J. BERCKMANS.

VILLA CITY, Fla., March 21st, 1888.

Canadian vs. British Apples.

A letter from A. McD. Allan, Goderich.

ED. HORTICULTURIST,—Some weeks ago a friend of the Fruit Growers' Association in Brampton, sent to me a clipping from *The Scotsman*, of Edinburgh, Scotland, in which the editor of that journal severely criticised our apples. He claimed that they were rapidly failing in size, color and flavor, etc., and advo-

cated the extensive planting of orchards in Britain, claiming that with proper attention and care growers in Britain would in a few years be able not only to grow enough for the home markets, but an overplus for shipping to "New York and Montreal"!

I replied fully direct to the *Scotsman*, and it seems my letter has appeared, as I have received by the last mail a letter referring to the subject which I give in full as follows, thinking that it may be of interest to our growers here.

"TO ALEX. MCD. ALLAN,

"President F.G.A., Goderich, Canada.

"DEAR SIR,—I have read your letter to the *Scotsman* of date 13th ult. I did not see the article you refer to, but I can't understand how the writer could ever come to such a conclusion that there was any hope of the home-grown apples ever supplanting Canadians here. The idea seems to me to be too absurd to be treated seriously. I have been over twenty-five years in the fruit trade and I dare say I can be supported in what I say by the entire trade, that Canadian apples hold the market and will continue to do so, so long as we get your fruit properly and conscientiously packed.

"Yours, etc.,

"WM. CARMICHAEL."

"LEITH, March 5th, 1888.

Experience with New Varieties.

SIR,—If my experience in some new varieties of fruits in these parts is of any interest to you here it is.—Of some twelve varieties of grapes the Eldorado is the first choice in my family for eating. The Russian Apricot has stood the two past winters unprotected and unharmed; not yet fruited. The Kelsay Japan Plum dead, root and branch the first winter, 1886-7. The Ogden Japan Plum, about two-thirds killed, sprouted up very thrifty the past summer, but I think all killed this winter, 1887-8. The Dwarf English Walnut and the Spanish Chestnut, has stood the two past winters unharmed. The Early Harvest Blackberry dead, root and all, the first winter. The Agawam growing and fruiting nicely. The Golden Queen Raspberry about as hardy and productive as the Cuthbert, but not quite as strong a grower. The Shaffer is a very strong grower, hardy and productive.

H. MCKEE.

NORWICH, ONT.

A Correction.

SIR,—I notice in my remarks on your paper in your last issue an error exists, whether on my part or yours I am not sure; but it looks a little awkward where I say, *or should have said*, and certainly intended to say Floriculture is my branch, it reads, "Horticulture is my branch." You will see the import of my statement.

N. ROBERTSON.

OTTAWA.

The Curl of the Peach Leaves.

IN the November number you gave a description of the curl of the peach leaves. We have a remedy that saves our trees, that is for the one season. We take some coals and old leather in a tin pail and hang them on a pitch fork, and smoke the tree well, and the diseased leaves will all drop in a few days and it will not hurt the fruit nor healthy leaves. We have used it four or five seasons and it never failed us.

E. AINSLIE.

BACONSFIELD.

Note by F. Shute, Chemist, Experimental Farm.

Personally, I should be very apt to doubt the efficacy of the fumes of burning leather for the destruction of the fungus *excoecus deformans*, unless it (the fumes) were very dense and hot, (in which case the other leaves would likely be affected. In this incomplete combustion of leather undoubtedly many compounds of nitrogen (cyanogen to ammonia) are formed, but what effect such, in the quantities they are present in such fumes, would have upon the fungus it would be difficult to say without direct experiment, as there appears to be no experiments of the kind on record. On the other

hand, leaves affected by this fungus, must have their vitality impaired, and would therefore be the first to succumb to any outside influence of a deleterious nature. In this way the leather—or perhaps other fumes are beneficial in hastening the fall of the diseased leaves.

The "Jewel" Grape.

SIR,—We have good account of the Jewel lately secured from Mr. Wm. Mead Pattison, of Clarenceville, P.Q., who fruited this last season, he says:—

"I am most favorably impressed with the Jewel which ripened in August this year, close on Champion, and I thought a trifle earlier. The vine is vigorous, foliage healthy. Fruit of excellent quality and does not deteriorate soon after ripening. Berry not as large and bunch as showy as Champion, but this is more than compensated in earliness, quality, and other points of value. If it continues to do as well here it will be the most popular extra early grape.—W. Mead Pattison."

STAYMAN & BLACK.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

REVIEW.

Books.

THE BUSHBERG CATALOGUE. An illustrated Grape Growers' Manual, by Bush and Son and Meissner, viticulturists, Bushberg, Missouri. Cloth, price \$1.00.

This is a most valuable book of 152 pages and deserves special mention as deserving a place in the library of every vineyardist. After treating of climate, soil and aspects, there is a most exhaustive chapter on the true grape vines of the United States, by Dr. G. Engelmann, in which is clearly shown the characteristics of the various species of *Labrusca*, *Cordifolia*, *Riparia*, *Aestivalis*, etc., and a careful classification thereof. The next is viticultural remarks on our American species, with lists of their cultivated varieties. Grape grafting, trellising, training, pruning, diseases, etc., are also carefully dealt with in this work, which closes with a very full descriptive and illustrated catalogue.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOREST COMMISSION of the State of New York for the year 1886. A. L. Prain, Albany, N. Y., Secretary.

This work treats in an able manner of the serious results of the loss of forests, such as the drying up of springs, and the causing of sudden and destructive floods, and the injury to agricultural interests, and ably advocates the careful preservation of forests still standing.

ADDRESS of the eighth meeting of the American Horticultural Society, in San Jose, California, January 25th, 1888, by Parker Earle, president of the Society. This excellent address may be had by any person who will take the trouble of enclosing 2 cents for postage to the Secretary, W. H. Ragan, Greencastle, Indiana.

Miscellaneous.

THE LAMB PRIZE ESSAYS, from J. A. Watson, Concord, N.H., (1) Healthy Homes and Foods, (2) Sanitary conditions of School Houses, etc., (3) Disinfection, etc., against Infectious Diseases, (4) Preventable Causes of Diseases.

THE MARYLAND FARMER, published at Baltimore, Md., a monthly magazine at \$1.00 per annum.

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For the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

MY COUNTRY'S TREE.

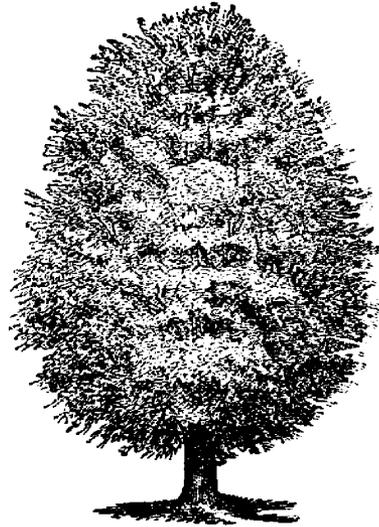
BY GRANDMA GOWAN, MOUNT ROYAL VALE, MONTREAL.

SEE how my Maple waves her arms,
 So graceful, high in air!
 With diamond bracelet! glittering charms!
 And coronal so fair.

She is a beauty, and a queen,
 In her angelic robe,—
 A radiant garb like hers, I ween,
 Came from the hand of God!

She's lovely in her white attire,
 And in her emerald green,
 In the garden of our primal sire
 Our Maple was the queen.

England claims her royal oaks,
 With stately spreading boughs,
 And roots as firm as castle rocks,
 Staunch as feudal vows!



I'd rather claim our Maple Belle
 With her locks of ruddy glow,
 "Trees have tongues," they own her spell
 In sylvan language low.

The cypress, and the dusky pine,
 Reminds me I am clay;
 And makes me look on "Father Time"
 And fret my hour away!

But the golden gleam of my country's tree
 Wafts my soul on high,
 To the Eden prepared for "even me"
 In the eternal by and by.



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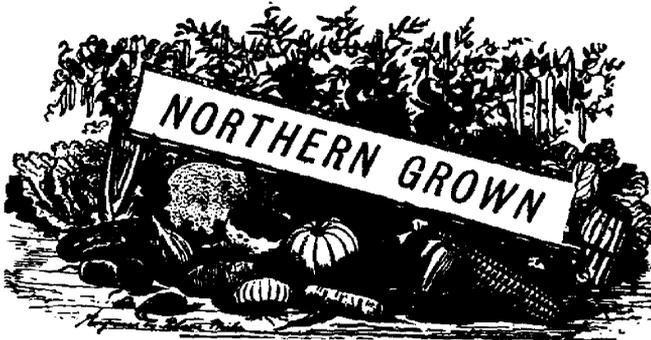
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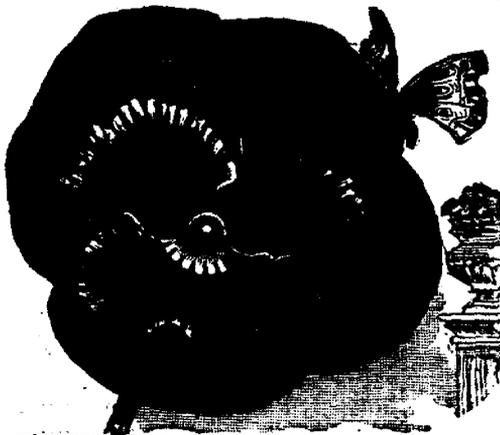


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