

Mayville, N. Y.

September 17th, 1907.

Messrs Chase & Wyman,
Rochester, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I desire two dozen apple-trees to fill out places in my orchard where the trees have died.

I will leave the selection entirely to you, only saying that I want one dozen of the earliest summer apples, and one dozen of best ~~center~~ ~~apple~~ that is I desire a succession from the earliest summer apples to the latest fall apples. I think for winter apples I have no need.

I want also 6 of the old-fashioned Damsen Plum trees. These always seem to bear here where the finer varieties are very uncertain.

There is another thing I wish to write you about. My husband, the late Judge Tourgee, set out on this place when he bought it in 1881, an orchard which was the pride of his heart. It had only come in bearing a year or so before we left for France in 1897. On 1892, he had put out about 150 plums--French and German Prunes and all the finer varieties. These had not come into bearing before we left. He died in France in 1905, not having visited America after he left it in 1897. On my return here with my daughter, we found everything had been so neglected--especially the orchard and trees about the house that we were disheartened as to anything ever coming from them. I however employed a townsman who "did pruning", as he expressed it, but the state of the trees after his job was finished was worse than when he began. Now, this is preliminary to saying I want some one who know how to prune and look after my fruit trees for me so as to once more get them "in condition" as they say of horses. I did not know but you had some one who wanted to take a trip into this part of the country, who would look over my place and tell me what is needed to be done--when the proper time for pruning comes--and what it would cost.

Judge Tourgee had set out as a division line between our next door neighbor 12 crab apple trees of the different varieties. These have never been trimmed since our absence and have been allowed to bear so heavily that they have broken down and are anything but ornamental now. There are so many of them that we would like to graft some of the trees with early apples; there are also several other healthy trees about the place that we would like to graft with better fruit.

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What I need is some one who knows, to tell me what I should have done with my fruit trees. I would rather have them all cut down than in the condition they now are, which, however, I am sure could be remedied if I know how to get about it, or rather had some one who knew what was need and what it would cost me to have it done.

You will remember that I ordered some peach and quince trees of you last spring. I liked the tone of your correspondence which must be my excuse for troubling you at this time with my woes. It would seem that this matter should be seen to--that is see what was needed to be done--while the leaves are still on. We expect to go to Nassau for the winter, leaving here for Washington the last of October and going on there in November. So we shall not be here at the time when pruning should be done and I would like to make my arrangements for this before leaving.

If you can do anything for me, please write me about it.

I am, gentlemen,

Very truly yours,