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FAY'S PROLIFIC CURRANT.

The oft-repeated expression that "no improvement has been made in the currant for a long time," is no longer true. The variety, Fay's Prolific, a coloured illustration of which adorns this number, is a most decided step in advance. We have had sufficient size in the Cherry and Versailles, but they were very acid, short bunched, and poor croppers. It is true that their large size enabled growers to obtain the highest market rates from those who purchased for table use, but the fruit canneries would not pay these prices, size being a matter of secondary consideration. Thus it came to pass that since the demand for canning purposes sprang up, those growers who relied on the more productive, though less showy, Victoria currant, probably realized more profit from an acre of these than did those who grew the larger and more showy sorts.

It is said that the late Lincoln Fay, of Portland, Chautauque County, in the State of New York, for many years endeavoured to raise a currant that would combine the size of the Cherry with the productiveness of the Victoria. To this end he fertilized one with the pollen of the other, and raised some

thousands of seedlings, from out of which he selected this as the one that most nearly realized his desires. It is now sixteen years since this seedling was obtained. For some eight or nine years Mr. Fay tested this variety by the side of all the sorts in cultivation, until becoming convinced of its superiority in several particulars over any of these, he planted it extensively for his own marketing. About three years ago the writer visited Mr. Fay, and although it was then too late in the season to see the fruit upon the plants, there was yet abundant evidence that his then very extensive plantation of this currant had yielded a bountiful crop.

The Fay's Prolific has fruited for two years in our grounds without receiving any more care than has been given to all the other varieties, and we are constrained to say that it has fully sustained all the claims that Mr. Fay expressed to us regarding its size, productiveness and quality. We have found the size of the berries to be about equal to that of the Cherry Currant, while the bunch is very much longer, and being named for about half or three quarters of an inch from the point of connec-