

EARLY APPLES FOR MARKET.



FIG. 1202.—EARLY HARVEST.

THIS season, when apple scab is again breaking out in unusual virulence, we are reminded of the importance of growing only those varieties which are proof against this fungus. We want to know just what is the most profitable first early apple, for market. For many years the *Early Harvest* held this place, but for the last twenty years this variety has been worthless on account of scab. This year the trees of *Early Harvest* are loaded at Maplehurst, but there is not one perfect apple, not one that could be shipped, and scarcely one that even the children will pick up to eat, and they know that no other apple of its season equals it in quality. The season of the *Early Harvest* is usually about the first week in August, though in 1896 it ripened from 15th to 30th of July. The *Red Astracan* comes close after it, usually being fit to ship from the 10th to 20th; it is a beautiful apple, the prettiest of its season, valuable for market when not too abundant, often bringing from 20 to 40 cents a twelve qt. basket for a selected fancy grade. We usually

put up the fancy grade in these baskets, rowing them in two deep, and three wide; the second grade, of smaller size, or less color, goes in barrels. But unfortunately the scab is attacking even the *Red Astracan* this season, and of one hundred trees, twenty-five years planted, there will be very few baskets fit for market. This is a sore disappointment this season, when they were needed for experimental export shipments.

The *Yellow Transparent* is proving the best variety of its season to resist the scab. Its season is about as early as the *Early Harvest*, but it hangs much longer on the trees, attaining more transparent whiteness as it hangs. In some instances we have seen samples still hanging about the end of August. It may not be profitable in competition with *Astracan* and *Duchess*, varieties of far greater beauty, but when it competes with the *Early Harvest* in the early part of August, the grower will find it so superior in appearance, uniformity and productiveness, that it will entirely re-



FIG. 1203.—RED ASTRACAN.