

winter use, and few more agreeable to the palate in the sick room. Its cultivation will amply remunerate the grower. A friend in the neighbourhood of Hamilton this season secured from a few small rows of red currants the enormous sum of fifty dollars currency. The cultivation of currants, red, white and black, is singularly adapted for Ottawa and the surrounding country. There is an old adage which says, "He that gives quickly, gives twice." This is especially true of currant culture: the return is at once—it is quick and continuous.

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES.

Here is a wide field for remark and full scope for self-defence on the part of your President to shorten what he has to say on this important and lucrative cultivation.

The cultivation of raspberries has made wonderful progress in the course of a few years—what greater could have been made in the cultivation of almost any fruit than has been made in that of raspberry culture?

We fear that this district is somewhat in the position in which more western localities were a few years ago, viz., so overrun with the natural sorts that there is almost no need of cultivating the fine varieties. It is a wonderful damper to a grower of raspberries to be told that an Indian is at the door offering a patent pail full of beautiful fresh raspberries for 25 or 30 cents. It is a great temptation, under such circumstances, that no further investment shall be made in raspberries. This state of things here and elsewhere has militated against the vigorous cultivation of the raspberry.

Raspberry culture, however, is remunerative—highly remunerative. This, like many other varieties of fruit, requires continual planting. In fact, transplanting is an absolute necessity. We know of few varieties of fruit cultivation that will more amply repay care and attention than the raspberry. Both in the field and garden it requires to be kept clean. Indeed, this is true of all cultivation. The benefits of mulching are evident in the cultivation of the raspberry, although we have seen it overdone. If the mulching is too heavy at, or immediately after the fruit is ripe, it is apt to stimulate to an immature growth in the fall, which often leads to disastrous consequences, in this way, that the unripened canes, which under such circumstances often push to a great length, are unfit to withstand the severity of the winter. Heeling up with the plough immediately after the fruit is gathered, or a shallow furrow with the cultivator, lets the drought into the land, curbs the growth, and tends to stiffen the canes.

The Philadelphia holds much the same relation to raspberries, as Wilson's Albany does among strawberries. It has been the favourite for years, both for its hardiness and prolificness—it is singularly prolific. During the past year it has suffered much in common with almost all varieties of raspberries. At Drummondville the fact was established, that, account for it as we may, the old-established hardy varieties suffered more than acknowledged tender varieties. The Hornet, a tender variety, suffered less from winter-kill than the Philadelphia. Last season was, however, in its effect an exceptional one.

Seedling hybrids are springing up in various sections of the Province, which threaten to rival this old favoured variety, the Philadelphia. Colonel McGill, of Oshawa, has a good seedling variety, though tender, and a little soft for marketing. The same remark may be made with regard to many samples of seedlings that have been sent to your President from various districts.

Two hybridists, however, in this department maintain the credit of their already wide reputation. We allude to the efforts of Arnold and Saunders in this field of hybrid cultivation. In visiting Arnold's grounds during the past summer, we were struck with admiration at several of his results in hybridization. Our memory, without being refreshed by notes, takes us back to his No. 7, a handsome, highly flavoured, red berry—an excellent grower, with singularly coarse bright foliage. Had a mortal like myself raised one such variety, I should never cease to blow my horn, which I sometimes try to do without having produced anything; but when I mention that Charles Arnold has six or seven as good, which bore during the past summer, and a multitude whose name is legion yet to be tried, I think your admiration will be awakened at the persevering and patriotic efforts of our old esteemed director and hybridist.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to propound a question to the curious and philosophic among you, how it comes that from the stem of one of Arnold's white raspberry hybrids,

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