

THE Canadian Horticulturist.

VOL. IX.]

JANUARY, 1886.

[No. 1.]

THE QUINCE.

The consumption of this fruit has greatly increased within the past ten years, so that the attention of fruit growers is being turned to the consideration of more extensive planting in order to meet the increased demand. Hence the question arises whether the planter may expect that an orchard of quince trees will be remunerative, and, if so, what varieties are most desirable, what soil is best suited to their growth, and what cultivation should they receive.

With regard to the question of remuneration it may be sufficient to say that this matter of fruit growing for profit is like every other business, it needs to be conducted with skill and prudence, while prices will vary as do the prices of all other products according to the supply and demand. If there be any branch of agriculture that calls for the intelligent use of one's brains more than another it is this very department of fruit growing for profit. Not a few have been sorely disappointed just because they have made fruit growing a secondary matter, a sort of adjunct to the usual farm operations. If that way of fruit raising was ever profitable, the day has now passed; they only may

expect success who will make this fruit growing the business to which all else is secondary.

We shall endeavor to set forth the conditions under which the quince can be successfully grown so as to yield good crops, leaving it to our readers to determine for themselves whether they can meet those conditions and reasonably expect to find quince-growing for market to be remunerative.

The quince will thrive best in a rich, deep, clay loam, that is thoroughly drained of all standing water. It has been the fashion to plant the quince bushes in some low, wet place and let them grow as they may without care. Experience has taught us that this method is unwise, that on the contrary, they will respond as readily to generous treatment in well drained ground as any fruit plant. The climate must also be taken into account. The trees are more hardy than the peach and may therefore be successfully grown somewhat beyond the limit of peach culture. It is not the wood of the branches nor the fruit buds, but it is the root of the quince that is most liable to be injured by severe freezing, especially if growing in a light sandy soil. Hence in our