

HONEST FRUIT PACKING.

WE have so often emphasized the importance of a revolution of methods in fruit packing that it seems almost superfluous to revert to it again; especially now that it is regulated by an Act of Parliament. Nevertheless we believe that our readers will be interested in an address by Chas. E. Forster, of New York City, before the Connecticut Fruit Growers on Domestic and Foreign Fruit Markets, from which we make the following extract:—

“Who that has stood in any of the markets of the world to which our special lines of perishables find their way has not blushed at the sight of offerings unworthy of the name? It was but last spring that a prominent commission firm at Liverpool wrote of a certain consignment of Russets from New York:—‘It is a shame that any American of character should send such trash to the English markets with the expectation of satisfactory sale. The whole invoice after removal of the top layers is little better than culls.’ A society of horticulturists as prominent as this, and which is bestowing so much time and thought upon the subjects of conservation of the soil, elimination of insect pests, and the general physical up-building and expansion of orchard and garden cultivation, can well afford to supplement its good work by allying itself strongly upon the side of honorable methods of marketing the developed product. The exalted standard adopted by your distinguished colleague, Mr. J. H. Hale, of South Glastonbury, should be an inspiration to all serious-minded horticulturists. His scientific skill in the growing of fruits is only exceeded by a studied choice of the most marketable varieties, while his methods and style of grading and packing has given him a name beyond reproach in all markets he has entered. We have another in our own State of New York, in the person of Mr. Geo. T. Powell of Briarcliff Manor, who, in addition to the study of how to produce, is ever foremost in the discussion of how best to market this great fruit crop of ours.

“Honesty of method is the prevailing in-

stinct which dominates the work of high-minded, practical men in all departments of industrial life. The United States may well be proud of the great galaxy of talent devoted to the elevation of fruit growing from the haphazard standard of former days to that of the scientific culture which gradually but surely is making its influence felt in every rural community. The average grower of fruits and vegetables needs just as much education upon the secondary proposition, how best to market his product, as upon the primary one of how best to grow it. The distributor, or dealer, to whom he may consign withholds suggestions for fear of being misunderstood. To criticise a shipper's methods too often means the loss of a more or less valuable client. It does not pay and is therefore considered not worth while.

“What the markets require is, quality first, and quantity next. Let the peaches be well graded with but one variety in a package. Give generous measure. A crate of raspberries scantily filled never brings its real value. Avoid the pony package, and let the latter be new whenever and wherever possible. The apple barrel adopted by the National Apple Shippers' Association is the standard of the country, and will sell in any market at home or abroad. The stove-pipe barrel of the Hudson River can go to Europe or to New York, where they don't want it, but the great West will have none of it. When using the generous second-hand flour barrel always wash and dry it thoroughly. Flour dust upon apples, pears and quinces means a cut of twenty-five or fifty cents in the price to make the stock sell. It represents a poor economy of time and labor. Use a stencil for the different varieties. It costs but a trifle, and indicates care and interest in the details that is always appreciated. Don't be ashamed to have a brand of your own, and pack up to it. The No. 2 stock will sell under a second brand, which can be understood. Shake apple barrels often while packing the fruit, and the attendant pressing need not then be too severe to bring it to market light and in good form.”