

NOTES FROM MAPLEHURST.—III.

PACKAGES.



THE question of the most suitable packages for our choicest fruits is a very important one and one that will never be fully settled, because we as growers are becoming more and more fastidious in our requirements, and our basket factories are constantly improving their appliances with a view of meeting our wishes. The patent cover made at Walkerville has already been illustrated in these columns. It works well, and the only objection to its use is its expense. Two cents is rather a high price to pay for a cover to put on a basket which is itself only worth three and a-half cents. The leno cover, which we have been using so constantly during the last ten years for almost every kind of fruit, costs about one cent per basket, which is enough money certainly in these days of low prices. It shows the fruit to good advantage, and, were it not for the piling of the baskets in our express cars, nothing more would be needed; but, until better arrangements for carrying our fruit are furnished, it will be necessary for growers to consider how best to protect their fruit from injury.

The tribow basket is becoming popular with growers at Winona. The illustration (Fig. 50), taken from a photograph, will give our readers a better idea of this basket than we would possibly do by a description of it. Tribow means simply three handles, and in this consists its peculiarity. The handle serves as a complete protection for the fruit. The baskets may be piled upon one another, as high as may be necessary, without injury to the fruit; and further, the handle will so separate layers of baskets from one another as to afford a free circulation of air, which is certainly an advantage in a long shipment. The same objection is made against the use of these baskets as against the protection cover, because the cost of the leno and the extra handle about equals that of the patent cover.

A two-handled basket has been lately invented at Grimsby with a bar across the top from one handle to the other. This would seem to answer the same purpose as the three handles and could, possibly, be made at a less expense.

Our own habit has been to use the ordinary baskets and to slip wooden covers over the leno for protection, upon which the address is neatly stencilled; but this is not an economical plan. A great deal of fruit is put up in small packages, which would be much better sold in larger bulk. Thus we find a great quantity of apples coming into the market to be sold in 12-quart baskets, instead of in barrels, and we also see many grapes going into the market in three and five pound baskets, instead of the fifteen and twenty pound baskets. Peaches and pears, too, are sometimes put up in six-quart baskets,