

and flavor approaching the Spy; whoever will produce such an apple would be entitled to a bonus equal to that offered to the genius who will kill all the rabbits in Australia.

We have innumerable varieties of good Fall apples which thrive well north of here, but a good hardy Winter apple we do not possess. The chief value of the Larne consists in the hardiness, robustness and durability of the tree, its regular bearing habit, and the showiness of the fruit. As a cooking apple it is decidedly preferable to the Alexander, and it keeps three months longer. Its flavor is infinitely superior to the Ben Davis, and with

the Larne there is no small trash. But it is not really a shipping apple, unless we obtain better shipping facilities with more careful handling than we have at present. If the Larne could be presented in good condition in the English market, I have no doubt it would bring the very highest price. I have shipped to England a good many barrels of different kinds, but the only kind which arrived at their destination in good condition was the American Golden Russet. The demand for it, however, seems to be limited, on account of its rather small size. But I fear I transgress on your valuable space.—*May 11th, 1889.*

HORTICULTURAL REMINISCENCES.

BY GEORGE LESLIE, SR., TORONTO, ONT.

SOME time ago I gave your readers some notes* of my first ramble among the American nurseries of the early days. My second visit was nearer home. In the Spring of 1840, I found Mr. Barry, of Rochester, a clerk in the seed store of Messrs. Ronald & Batome, corner of Buffalo and State Streets, and Mr. Elwanger in charge of the greenhouses of the same firm. With the exception of a few small patches covered by a miscellaneous collection of young trees there was nothing about Rochester to indicate a forthcoming nursery centre. In the Fall of the same year Messrs. Elwanger & Barry entered into partnership, and leased six acres of land near

Mt. Hope from a Mr. Gilman for the purpose of starting in the nursery business. I found these industrious young men busy fencing and plowing their land. That Fall I could not find all the stock I wanted, although I got some samples from Mr. Row, of Greece, five miles west of Rochester, who was beginning business. I purchased a few apple trees from Boarden Brothers, and some roses and shrubs from Mr. King, who had four acres under nursery near Mt. Hope. Gathering these small purchases together I took them to Toronto on the schooner *Voller*. At this time I was still in the seed business in my old store on Yonge Street, where I also occasionally dealt in such fruits as were

*See vol. xi., p. 101.