

Coming up the St. Lawrence we might profitably look through the old gardens in the suburbs of Quebec. We might not find apples of gold, and melting pears such as are described in poetic sentence by the author of *Le chien d'Or*, but we shall find that even on the heavy clay loams of this region, apples and plums are produced of good quality and in fair quantity. The Island of Montreal is undoubtedly the cradle of the fruit industry of the province. The ground, now covered by many of those majestic architectural structures so beautifully situated around the base of old Mount Royal, was once occupied by monuments in the form of fruitful apple and pear trees reared by the efforts of man and nature, not so imposing in appearance, though hardly less beautiful, but perhaps more useful in effect and beneficial in influence than piles of granite, sandstone, or marble. On the Island of Montreal we find a truly intensive style of fruit growing; apples and pears are staples. Strawberries, gooseberries and other small fruits are extensively cultivated. Convenient market facilities, both at home and abroad, assist the fruit grower. About the foot-hills of those curious out-croppings of the Vermont mountains that we find in the Richlieu Valley and in the Eastern Townships—localities peopled by U. E. Loyalists—fruit growing is a leading branch of rural labour. The number of varieties peculiar to a locality is an indication in fruit growing of the relative antiquity of the industry. Here we find our native Canada Baldwin and our Winter St. Lawrence. Beloeil, Rougemont and Abbotsford, are well known to Quebec fruit growers as the homes of progressive horticulturalists, and the name of the late Charles Gibb of Abbotsford is well known throughout the continent as a fruit-grower and a philanthropist. The fruit area along the New York boundary line is rapidly extending, Apples, plums, pears and grapes here reward the efforts of the fruit grower with abundant crops. The scene in Montreal along the docks last autumn when apples by the thousands of barrels were going out by steamer was indicative of the extent of the industry.