

APPLES IN TWO MOUNTAINS COUNTY.

BY HUGH M'COLL, HILLSIDE, ST. JOSEPH DU LAC, TWO MOUNTAINS.

The greater part of the County of Two Mountains is very well adapted for fruit culture, especially the Parish of St. Joseph du Lac, noted for its abundant production of fruit, especially apples, which grow spontaneous. It is situated on the north east slope of one of two mountains from which this County derives its name. A considerable ridge, extending along the base of the mountain, is composed of limestone gravel to a depth of from 6 to 10 feet and is perfectly free of water without artificial drainage.

From personal experience and observation I am confident that choice fruit can be cultivated with success. My observation extends over a period of 23 years. From that time, 3 years following, I bought trees from pedlars, which proved a total failure. Nevertheless, having a great desire to possess an orchard of choice fruit, in 1866 I bought of Mr. Wm. Brown, of Côte des Neiges, 100 trees, one-half Fameuse and the balance of different varieties. Being successful, in 1868 (Mr. Brown having sold out his nursery) I bought 200 trees from Mr. Siméon Lacombe, Côte des Neiges, and in 1869 I bought from the same nursery 100 trees and 2000 grafts. With all I succeeded very well. The grafts I nursed on the same soil in which I planted my orchard. Although it is 7 years since the trees were moved from the nursery to the orchard, the rows numbered 40 trees per row during that time. Some rows have stood without a miss on removal and are now bearing very well. Since then I graft for my own use and a few for sale. My orchard consists of 2000 trees, 1,600 of which are grafted, and the balance seedlings. I have planted 200 seedlings close to my boundary fence, taking up little or no space, and they seem to do well. So that my whole orchard extends from 14 years till 2 years' planting.