

RUSSIAN FRUITS.

BY CHARLES GIBB, ABBOTTSFORD.

It may seem strange that the fruits of Russia are so little known in this country, scarcely known even in Germany, that the fruits of one part of Russia are often but little known in another.

Our fruits came to us, as it were, by chance. In the days of the old French Colony, the peasants of Normandy and Brittany brought with them the seeds, and perhaps the scions of the apples they loved most in their native land. Later, the Englishman introduced his favorite fruits and the Scotchman his; in time the matter became commercial, and we soon had under trial in Canada and in the Eastern States all the best fruits of the *mild humid* portion of Western Europe.

That not until 1882 we should have begun to explore our own *like climates* in the old world seems strange indeed!

The fruits of Western Europe and their pure offspring born on this continent, as a rule, are not long-lived upon the Western prairies above latitude $43\frac{1}{2}$, not a success above $45\frac{1}{2}$ in this Province, and that only in exceptionally favorable localities. In Eastern Russia we find fruit growing a profitable industry in climates decidedly more severe than that of the City of Quebec. Hence we may expect to increase the area of fruit culture northward upon this continent very largely.

The uncertainty of these fruit trees of Western Europe in the severer climates, had led to large importations by the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa. (See 7th Report Montreal Hort.