

THE EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS OF THE "CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST."

SINCE it is the fashion with some of our contemporary horticultural journals to boast of their experimental gardens, in order that their readers may not have it to say that their editors are only bookworms and know nothing practically of gardening, we have thought it wise also to give our readers a glimpse of the Woolverton Homestead and fruit farm, sometimes referred to in these pages as "Maplehurst."

It is winter. The deep snow will prevent our tramping through the orchards, so we will climb the "Mountain" and take a view from there. Yonder is the beautiful Ontario, now ice-bound and scarcely distinguishable from the sky which meets it; and lying between, the orchard of nearly one hundred acres, planted with apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, quince trees, grapes and small fruits of many varieties. On the west lies the fruit farm of Mr. E. J. Woolverton, President of the Niagara District Fruit Growers' Stock Co., an organization for the sale of fruit in the various cities; and on the east, that of Mr. A. H. Pettit, President of the Lincoln County Farmers' Institute.

The farm was purchased nearly one hundred years ago by the writer's great-grandfather, and formed a portion of a four hundred acre stock and grain farm. About thirty years ago it was used as a nursery of young trees, by Mr. C. E. Woolverton, with Mr. A. M. Smith, now of St. Catharines, as a partner; both of whom also took an active part in the early meetings of our Association, and were among the eighteen constituent members who met for its formation in the Board Room of the Mechanics' Hall, Hamilton, in the month of January, 1859. Latterly it has been entirely devoted to fruit culture and experimental work. The apple orchards are of various ages, some of them nearly one hundred years planted, and consist of about sixty varieties. There are some twenty or thirty kinds of pears grown, the chief among which is the Bartlett, of which variety there is a large bearing orchard. The principal market grape is the Concord, and some eighty other kinds are being grown for trial. The Wilson and the Crescent are the chief strawberries, but there are several out of the forty varieties under test which promise to be more desirable. And so we might go on to enumerate quinces, plums, cherries, blackberries, etc., but enough is already mentioned to give our readers some idea of the practical work of which the results are from time to time given to the readers of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.