

Mr. A. McD. Allan writes :—"The Gravenstein is our best all-round apple for its season, either for dessert, cooking, local or export, and is hardy enough to be successfully grown well north of Toronto. There is money in it, being one of the highest priced in any market ; a thrifty grower, early and regular bearer."

In Southern Ontario, however, the Gravenstein is perfectly hardy. At Maplehurst we have four large trees, thirty years planted, which produce an annual crop of the largest and finest samples of Gravenstein that can be grown anywhere. We have gathered them in September and forwarded them to London, where they sold at the top of the market. There is no doubt it would pay well for growers in the Niagara district to plant this apple freely for export purposes. We ought at least to agree together upon those varieties which are the best and most profitable of their respective seasons, and then produce those kinds in larger quantities, in order that our district may become famous in the markets of the world for certain apples of high quality, for each season. Already our King, as a mid-winter apple, brings us a high reputation, and Nova Scotia has become famous for her Gravensteins ; so much so, that the Boston and New York buyers compete with the buyers for the British markets in the very orchards, for these famous apples. It was the fine showing of a dozen barrels of beautiful Gravensteins at one time that gave the Nova Scotia fruit exhibit such prominence at the World's Fair, under the careful management of President Bigelow.

The Ribston Pippin is one of the finest apples that grows, but not equal to either of the above in showiness, and the tree with us, at Maplehurst, does not attain more than half the size of the Gravenstein. It lacks its vigor, and consequently is unable to carry an equal load of fruit.

The Gravenstein apple originated in Gravenstein in Holstein, Germany, and is counted one of the finest apples of Northern Europe. We append Downing's description :—Tree very vigorous, spreading, forming a large, broad head. Very productive. An early bearer. Young wood reddish brown. Fruit large, rather flattened, and a little one-sided or angular, broadest at the base. Stalk quite short and strong, deeply set. Calyx large, closed, in a wide, deep, rather irregular basin. Segments long, irregular, recurved. Skin greenish yellow at first, but becoming bright yellow and beautifully dashed and pencilled, and marbled with light and deep red and orange. Flesh tender and crisp, with a high-flavored, somewhat aromatic taste. Very good, September and October. A valuable apple for market or cooking, succeeding admirably wherever grown.

Soil for Strawberries.—A very rich garden spot, or any soil highly charged with humus, stimulates a too vigorous plant growth at the expense of a good yield of perfect fruit. In addition to the extra expense of having to "work the plants to death" to keep down weeds on such a soil, here is where the plants first begin to sicken and to die during the long and sometimes very dry summers of this latitude.—Miss. Exp. Station.