

SECOND-GROWTH GRAPES.



HAVE had this year an experience which, though perhaps not unique, I believe to be very unusual. I will briefly record it and will be glad to know whether any of your viticulturist members have had a similar experience.

On the morning of 23rd May last my vines, sixteen in number, presented a most gratifying appearance; there were an average of thirteen upright canes on each vine, and on each cane about eight good strong healthy laterals, and on each lateral from three to five clusters of flowers; some, indeed, had the young grapes partly set. The total number of clusters, then, were over six thousand! Of course not more than one-tenth of these should or could be ripened. I was naturally jubilant at the prospect of such a crop.

But as you know, "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft aglee," and certainly in my case I realized that, for that night a pretty heavy frost swept over the greater part of our fair province, causing terrible destruction among farms, orchards, gardens, etc., and my vines, which the day before had been "things of beauty," were now a scene of utter desolation, and my grapes, flower and berry, were entirely destroyed, and nearly every young shoot met the same fate; only where the friendly shelter of a neighboring tree had screened the vine from the killing effects of the frost, had a few of the shoots escaped, but of the grapes not one was left, a few of those on the sheltered branches appeared to be unharmed, but very soon they, too, withered and died. I, of course, concluded that my chances for a crop of grapes were *nil* for this year; but, the weather being favorable in a few days, the eyes that would, under ordinary conditions, have remained dormant until next year, began to move and soon two, three and even four shoots shewed themselves. In process of time these were reduced to one each and a profusion of flowers appeared; these were attended to more as a matter of course, than in the expectation of their reaching maturity, but as time wore on, these young grapes grew so rapidly and showed such vigor, that I began to hope that, if favored with a fine fall, there was a possibility—remote, perhaps—of some of the earlier kinds ripening. But, Sir, you will doubtless be surprised when I tell you that, with the exception of one vine, of whose name I am not sure, but think it is the "Agawam," which has not ripened its fruit, all the others have matured theirs well! and not only that, but the fruit has been of exceptional excellence both for size and quality, and taking into consideration the loss of, at least, a month of the most active growing season and other circumstances, it is a very remarkable, and as it has ended, gratifying occurrence.

I have gathered from fifteen of the vines, about 200 lbs. weight of grapes, three of them having very little fruit of the second growth.

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