

## PROFITS OF SMALL FRUIT BY A. M. PURDY.

When properly attended to, and care taken to raise *first-class* fruit and send it into market in *fine* order, (which is *required* of any horticultural or agricultural products, to make them *profitable*,) there is no branch of business that *pays* better than the growing of *Small Fruit* for market, and as to overstocking the market with such, it cannot be done. More *profits* can be realized from ten acres of Small Fruit, than from any one hundred acre farm in the country, and that too, with less hard labor.

We are aware, however, that there have been seasons when ordinary fruit has sold low in certain markets. Yet in these very markets and seasons, *first-class* fruit has *always* sold at high and most profitable rates,—thus showing the great importance of *thorough* culture. By “thorough culture,” we mean *deep, subsoil* ploughing, *liberal* manuring, *clean* and *oft-repeated* cultivation, and *plenty* of mulching, and last, but not least, with the strawberry, growing them in hills—that is, keeping off all runners. And to this the great importance of growing the *best* sorts, even if the first cost is considerably higher, and the grower may rely on a *ready* market, at the *highest* rates, for *all he can raise*.

Don't try experiments too largely, especially if your means are small, and instead of building air castles, go right to work with a will and build up a permanent business. Don't let a little drawback discourage you,—such as low prices some seasons, or a late spring frost or hard winter. Remember, these things *will* drive many out of the business, and that those that keep right along, year after year, will have the benefit of the seasons of high prices.

We know that there are years when the winter preceding and the season following, are *universally* favorable to the full fruiting of *all* kinds of fruit, and that in such seasons the amount marketed is so large as to cause prices to drop to a low figure; but let it be remembered that such seasons are *exceptions* and *not* the rule, and that most seasons one locality is favored and another not, and other times *vice versa*. In our long experience in growing fruits, we have found that our crops of Small Fruit *net* us just about the same every year; for when the crop is large prices are lower, and when small higher. We have, however, some years had large, full crops, when the crop in in other localities would be light, and in such seasons our