

EXTENSION OF FRUIT GROWING.



FIG. 1091.—A BLOCK OF PLUM TREES AT HELDERLEIGH.

a crop ten years hence, it would be accounted a famine year, and famine prices be obtained. I can well remember when a wagon load of grapes on Hamilton market was considered quite enough, and wise-acres shook their heads and declared that with the reckless planting of whole acres of vines the market would soon be overstocked, and you could not give them away, and yet since that time I have sold grapes at double the prices obtained then. The first load of grapes I ever sold was 320 lbs. on Hamilton market, away back in 1877, and I had the greatest difficulty in peddling them off at 3 cents for the most beautiful Delawares, and 2 cents for equally beautiful Concords. I obtained that price for Delawares last year with this its awful crop of all kinds of fruit, and repeatedly since then I have got double that price for both Concords and Delawares. We need hardly look for double these prices again; but I feel perfectly satisfied that we will, as in 1895 with its heavy crop

of grapes, fully as heavy here as the crop of 1896, realize a very large revenue indeed. We need hardly expect the large profits of such years as 1895 to be often repeated, indeed we may fairly look for very moderate prices at least four years out of five, but we must not forget that a cent and a half a pound pays us better now with ten, twenty or fifty acres in vineyard,—yes, even one cent per lb. pays us better than three cents fifteen years ago with one and two acre patches! The man who grows ten acres now can grow them nearly a cent a pound cheaper than he could then on one acre. Improved methods of culture, cheaper wire, cheaper trimming, no unnecessary waste by planting useless varieties, a better knowledge of soils and locations, better facilities for marketing, cheaper baskets, and last, but not least, the fact that a dollar will buy nearly twice as much of many things we require, all combined, enables us to market the product of ten acres with but little effort, while in those