

now in the market, at least in this section of our country, is not sufficient to meet the demand, and the consequence is our cellars are in no way crowded by our winter supply, and many not having any at all. But as ever the all pervading and benevolent law of compensation was found to hold good, though the strawberries were a failure the raspberry crop was most general and plentiful, and were our planters only in a good condition to reap a good harvest all might have been well; but here's the rub! we have scarcely any planted to supply a need in time of scarcity; as our fruit growers have not yet taken the matter of raspberries in hand in good earnest, from the fear that the market will not warrant it. Our observation in this matter, however, is, that in fruit culture as in grain culture there is no position safer or better on the whole than a mixed and varied crop. Specialities are well enough in their place and if they happen to do well; but if not! if frost or insect takes that, all is lost, and you have nothing to fall back upon to encourage and help you on. Let us learn from these failures some good lessons—it is at least one good use to make of them. Gooseberries and currants have become a losing and vexatious business, made so only by the insect enemies of these fine and savoury fruits. The currant leaf worm *Nematus Ventricosus* and the gooseberry fruit worm *Pembelia Grossularia* are each of them far more than an equal match for us, and where we attempt these fruits on a large scale they baffle our best efforts at success. We usually raise fine and beautiful cherries in this region, but this season the crop was injured fully 50 per cent. by the frosts of May; and so also was our crop of pears. The grape vines too were just then in a very bad condition for frost visitation, as the buds had expanded fully two feet or more. These young shoots and the whole wealth of fruit buds upon them were at once scorched, shrivelled and dead, and our fond hopes of luscious and beautiful grapes were at one stroke dashed to the ground. Alas for human hopes! How fragile are their texture! How deceptive are their promises. However, notwithstanding this calamity, we clipped a tolerably good crop of medium fine fruit for which we were very thankful as it was unexpected and far better than our fears. The plum and peach crops of this county were encouraging exceptions. These fine acceptable fruits are becoming more and more popular, and the market is at any time open and ready for them. They were very abundant and good and in some localities—the trees were literally breaking down with the abundance of fine fruit. We are glad to see that the culture of these valuable fruits is annually attracting much attention, and many are planting largely now who grew not a tree a very short time ago. In vegetable and floral gardening the season has been generous and encouraging to our fair as well as robust cultivators. This department of Horticulture is rapidly becoming more and more an absorbing occupation among our tasteful and well-to-do country people; and many are annually added to the throng of busy workers during our pleasant summer months. Although the season may be written down as disastrous to some of our national fruit interests, yet on the whole it was a clear and positive demonstration of the overflowing bounty of an overruling Providence, and of the native richness and productiveness of our admirable soils as brought out by the untiring industry and skilful efforts of an enlightened people. When the season for the annual fall exhibitions came round we were ready, and more than ready, to load the broad and long tables to their utmost bearing capacity with the finest, most beautiful, and richest specimens of pomona, that it has ever been our exalted privilege to witness. At this particular time during our delightful and happy months of September and October, the weather was most favourable, and all that could be desired by our people in their agricultural demonstrations throughout the whole extent of our progressive country. If you, sir, could have seen at these several country shows, the multitudes of our varied population, the young, the beautiful and the gay, as well also as the inured stalwart tiller of the soil, and his attentive partner and better half that were regularly in attendance in such immense crowds, it would have inspired your heart with fresh courage, and made you feel that no other land under the sun can offer greater privileges to her inhabitants or boast of brighter prospects for the future. These shows are demonstrative and annually teach us lessons of usefulness and wisdom. "Surely the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly inheritance."

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