

THE  
Canadian Horticulturist


VOL. XVIII.

1895.

No. 8.



OUR ASTRACHAN HARVEST.

 MORE than twenty years ago the writer planted an orchard of about one hundred and twenty-five trees of the Red Astrachan, a variety then but little grown in Canada. The Early Harvest was then the great summer apple of this Province, an apple of fine quality, but small in size, and gradually becoming subject to the ruinous apple scab. We have never regretted the venture, for since the Red Astrachan trees have come into bearing, the Early Harvest has taken quite a second place. Fortunately, however, the latter precedes the former by about a week, so there is room for both varieties.

The Astrachan is very productive. This season one large tree has yielded over ten barrels. Surely no one could wish for greater productiveness than this. Our frontispiece is a snap shot in our Astrachan orchard, showing a couple of trees laden down with richly colored apples, a couple of the pickers, and a wagon load of the fruit. Fig. 82o also shows a branch laden with apples taken from one of these trees.

We never throw down our apples in piles in the orchard, because it is inconvenient for packing, on account of the trouble of moving barrels and baskets, hammers and other tools, from place to place. Far the best plan we find this one to be of bringing all to the packing house in baskets, from time to time through the day, and there assorting in a careful manner. The packing table is an almost indispensable convenience. On this the packer dumps out the fruit,