

inspiring to our young men, imparting ambition to excel, and suggesting hints for their guidance.

Such an example is set before them in the case of Mr. R. McKnight, of Owen Sound, who came to Canada from Ireland in the year 1836, at the age of nineteen, to seek his fortune. His first employment was in a saw mill, where, owing to his ambition to stand first to his qualifications, he became, in six months time, manager of the concern, a post he held for three years.

In 1860 he turned his hand to school teaching, which profession he pursued with ability for six years, and, later on, devoted himself to mercantile life, which he conducted successfully in Markdale, Cookstown, and last of all, in Meaford. Not long since, he was appointed Registrar for the County of North Grey, a position which led him to reside in Owen Sound. His home surroundings at the latter place testify to his taste and skill in horticulture, and, although more properly classed among the bee-keepers from the especial attention he gives to that pursuit, yet as a fruit grower he holds no mean place, and merits a notice in these pages.

In reply to a letter asking Mr.

McKnight for some notes of his life as a horticulturist, he wrote the following letter which we insert in full:—

DEAR SIR:—Referring to your favor of the 10th April, in which you note receipt of electrotype, kindly offering to use it if furnished with notes, I have to say in reply that nothing I have done in the way of horticultural pursuits entitle me to be classed among the prominent promoters of the industry. I have never been other than what may be fairly termed an amateur in the business. I have two orchards; but my home one receives most of what attention I bestow on the culture of fruit. In this I cultivate all the fruit—large and small—adapted to this section of Ontario. Some years ago I thought of growing what peaches would serve my own family, if that were possible. To this end I ordered one hundred trees of the most suitable varieties, and planted them. I regret to say there is not one of them alive to-day, nor did I even get a fruit from them. Most of my spare time has been devoted to bee-keeping in recent years. When in London at the Colonial Exhibition (where I went as one of the delegates in charge of our honey exhibit) I thought it would be a good opportunity to secure a future market for the one hundred or so barrels of apples I yearly have to sell. I accordingly made the acquaintance of John Draper & Son—one of the largest fruit handling firms of



FIG. 45.—R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.