

TREES AND SHRUBS AT GIBBLAND FARM,

ABBOTTSFORD, QUEBEC, CANADA.

I WAS much interested in the historical notes presented to the readers of the *Horticulturist* a short time since, by Mr. J. M. Fisk, of Abbotsford. Such records as these are interesting to the reader who scans periodicals without any special point of interest in mind, but particularly to the fruit growers of the day who desire to know who the pioneers were who made the



FIG. 1914. OLD GRAFTED APPLE TREE AT GIBBLAND.

beginnings of an industry which has flourished to such a marked degree in the eastern townships of Canada.

Charles Gibb came to Abbotsford in the spring of 1873. Almost immediately he began the planting of fruit trees. His interest in ornamental shrubs and trees developed or was awakened somewhat later. As I recall it, his first plantings were made with native trees and a row of hardy maples which now

surround the lawn, were among the first trees set out with a view of beautifying the grounds. As time went on and his views on horticultural topics broadened, his interest in beautiful trees and shrubs deepened and his desire to place upon his own grounds specimens of the hardier types became keener each year. His visit to Europe in 1883 did much to increase his interest and his love for beautifying types of trees and shrubs. Between 1875 and '85 many forms of native and foreign shrubs and trees were planted at Abbotsford. The common types, such as cut leaved birches and maples, Norway spruce, Austrian and Scotch pine were planted first. Many of the rarer ornamentals were planted between 1880 and '85. Of course the mistake of planting too closely was not avoided. This is the common error of all lovers of trees and shrubs. When rare and beautiful trees are set out, we should give each tree sufficient space to develop normally. This, of course, is not good landscape gardening, according to prevailing fashion, for in following the most recent types of landscape gardening practically no attention is paid to the tree as an individual. Each variety is used for the purpose of giving mass effects. In following this kind of planting one may use cheap shrubs and trees and often obtain as pleasing effects as with the more expensive. In the planting at Abbotsford, it goes without saying that many ornamentals were set out which failed to endure the somewhat trying climate of the west slope of Yamaska mountain. I recall a beautiful specimen of imperial cut leaved weeping alder, planted in 1882, which survived two or three winters and was a thing of great beauty, but finally succumbed. So did a number of cut leaved Japanese maples, cut leaved sumach in addition to rhododen-