

THE CULTIVATION OF FRUIT AND OTHER TREES.

Without considering the value of the fruit itself, the trees, if properly and tastefully arranged, are very ornamental, and they do much towards rendering home attractive. A homestead cannot be made pleasant and cheerful without the trailing vine, the rich green foliage of trees and shrubbery to fill the vacant nooks and hide unseemly objects. Even though they be forest trees, it will repay the cost of transplanting to beautify one's surroundings. A cottage that is environed with shade trees and things to render it attractive, is pretty sure to have contentment within.—*R. H. Bass, in Boston Cultivator.*

THE CULTURE OF APPLES.—When advised to set more apple trees, the average farmer answers: "Orchards do not pay. If apples are selling at a good price, it is the year my trees do not bear, and when I do have a good crop apples are so cheap that they scarcely pay for picking."

Something of truth in that, but it is not quite the truth. When apples are at the lowest price, a man can make pretty good wages in picking, assorting and barreling them, even though he has but a small share of the products of the orchard for his labour.

The day's labour spent in an apple orchard usually yields better pay to the farmer than any other farm work that he does. Compare the time necessary to get a barrel of apples ready for market, and that required to grow and harvest a barrel of potatoes.

The increased demand for apples for exportation is likely to make better markets and better prices for this fruit in the future than we have had in years of plenty in the past. The evaporators or fruit dryers, and the conversion of cider into apple jelly, enables those whose temperance principles would not allow them to make cider to be used as a beverage, to feel that they can now convert their cider apples into wholesome food.

Better cultivation and better variety of fruit will make better crops and better prices. In the matter of fruit, also, increased supply seems to create an increased demand. Witness the quantities of strawberries, cranberries and other small fruits now sold in our markets, and then think of the time thirty years ago, when scarcely one-tenth was sold, and yet prices have not declined very much.

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