

NOTES OF THE YEAR.

By B. GOTT, ARKONA.

Believing firmly as I do in the ultimate usefulness of our popular Society to the present progress and future development of this great and promising country, I feel it a duty devolving upon me to do whatever lies within the range of my abilities for our encouragement and advancement. My time at the present being so wholly and so urgently taken up in the daily routine of my increasing business, I feel myself unable to do much that may be interesting to my fellow fruit growers by way of contribution to the pages of our instructive and valuable Annual Report. However I have at length concluded to beg indulgence for a short space while I make a statement of a few "Notes of the Year" just now so nearly closing upon us. Indeed the fact of the matter is, this is a very fitting and convenient time for circumspection and reflection. It is doubtless well for us frequently to look over the mysterious way in which we have been so safely led by our indulgent, kind and heavenly Father. It is clearly profitable to review the mercies and many providential blessings bestowed, and thus to acquire fresh inspiration of zeal and courage for the work that still lies before us. We further firmly believe in the deep and broad sympathy of all engaged in the ennobling work of horticultural progress, though they may be in remote parts our wide and great country. I have noticed again and again that in no class of artisans in the various industries of our promising land is there a deeper and broader sympathy and a kindlier fellow feeling than those most surely developed among honest, practical fruit growers. Although the representatives may be natives of the gorgeous, sunny south, or of the forbidding and frigid north; at home in the wide and ever green fields of the Golden State on the Pacific coast, or stationed on the rugged cliffs of the Atlantic seaboard, the actuations of their natures are responsive, and they instantly feel the grasp of a brother's hand. This, my dear sir, is one of the brightest and most precious advantages of our arduous and trying avocation. It is an immediate outgrowth from the very nature of the business, and one of the many valuable fruits of the profession, even far more valuable and far more lasting than those fruits found hanging on the trees. Fruit is ameliorating, and fruit is ennobling, and none can taste and eat but (if not live for ever) are most decidedly influenced and bettered thereby. But to the subject proposed; I may at once characterize this season as a distinctively outlined and remarkable one from the beginning to the end, and, first, from its extreme earliness and, second, from its bountiful fruitfulness, that is, all things considered. The season opened with us more than a month in advance of the usual time for such displays, so that on the 6th day of March we had the brightest sunshining and spring-like weather, several small insects were on the wing, and honey bees were swiftly buzzing across our fields. Certainly we all thought this was too much, it would not long continue; but it did continue, and on the 9th of the same usually snow covered and frozen month of March, in Canada, we found ourselves surrounded by the gladdening signs of balmy spring, and several fine moths of what we supposed to be *Phalena Vernata*, and others were caught, and we captured the first fine Canadian mosquito on the wing. This has scarcely ever been so here before even in the recollection of the *oldest inhabitant*. This season we commenced digging and working in the nursery earlier than ever before, so that on the 8th of March we were moving and packing nursery stock for the market; and the blossoms of our fruit trees and shrubs appeared also unusually early. But as we are ever made to feel that we are earthly and dependent, being in no season left without tuition, some disappointments and many mystifications; so also in this decaying season, on the 15th of the beautiful month of May and the two following days, or rather nights, when we fondly supposed all external danger was over, and we were advancing under the brightest prospects of one of the most remarkable fruit crops ever witnessed, just as the little apples and cherries were setting in myriads on the trees, lo! a frost came and at once rudely blighted our hopes. Alas! for human calculation, it's hard for the time but it may be best in the long run. As one of the results of this visitation the strawberry crop was almost a total failure, and many of our growers sustained heavy losses thereby. The apple and cherry crops especially were in a bad condition for frost, and they consequently sustained heavy losses, the young fruit falling like hail, and in some localities the crop was made worthless and ruined. Our supply of apples