

# THE APPLE MEN OF LAKE ONTARIO.

## CHAPTER I.

### BY THE SIDE OF A CHEERFUL SEA.

This is no fancy picture. I have no mind to make "every goose a swan," even on a Canadian lake, nor to lay the odour on too thickly in painting even a Canadian landscape, still less to represent Canadian life as free from every ill that man is heir to. My readers may therefore be sure that if I use a strong word of praise it is because nothing less will accurately describe the facts.

"What is worth having is worth hunting," I once heard a wise man say. And it is equally true that what is worth having is often not to be found without hunting. It is by no means the case that because you never heard of a particular district it cannot be one of the best in all Canada. Hundreds of thousands of people from the Old Country have passed through the district I am just going to tell about, on their way to Toronto and further west, and perhaps have been settled in their new homes for many years, without an idea that there is anything in it particularly worthy of attention. Yet it is one of the finest fruit-growing districts in the world.

**A  
Wonderful  
Fruit  
Country.**



An apple orchard in bloom.

The Great Lakes, to children who hear about them in geography lessons, are simply a curious feature on the map of Canada. How many people realize what a vast difference they make to the life and prosperity of the Canadians? They make an extremely useful water highway, for one thing, more than 1,000 miles long, from the head of Lake Superior, to the point where Lake Ontario overflows into the St. Lawrence River,—a great water highway traversed by countless steamers.

The Great Lakes have a better use even than that. We all know what a modifying and softening influence the surrounding sea has on the climate of the United Kingdom—how much milder the winter is in