

An article about John Marriott's orchards and gardens at Campbell's Creek, Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia.

John Marriott married Jane Stow, Eliza Mary Bolton Stowe's sister.

14 November 1883

HORTICULTURE AT CAMPBELLS ' CREEK.

Campbells Creek, as is well known, has always been famous for its gardens. As most of our readers are, doubtless, unaware of the extent of some of the gardens there, we purpose giving a description of Mr John Marriott's, which is situated near the Standard Brewery, and comprises 10 acres of land, which, in some places, has been trenched to a depth of 14 feet. The soil is especially adapted to the growth of trees and plants, and these have been acknowledged by experienced horticulturists to be some of the best in the colony. Previous to the heavy fall of rain on Friday and Saturday, the gardens looked beautiful, the trees with their heavily laden crops, evidencing the care and attention shown to them, whilst the plants also presented a healthy appearance. Mr Marriott has sustained considerable damage in the low-lying portion of his gardens, where the rhubarb, gooseberries, and strawberries have been almost destroyed. These are choice varieties, all being of enormous size. Some of the gooseberries were exhibited recently at the Shows held at Castlemaine and Sandhurst, and in each case Mr Marriott secured first prize. The debris is two feet deep in

this portion of the garden, and the water is still about one foot in depth at present. An embankment, which had been constructed outside the garden, last winter for the protection of the low-lying ground, at a cost of £40, has been partially washed away. There is a cherry tree, 15 feet in height, and very heavily laden with fruit, almost ripe, lying on the ground, having been thrown down by the heavy rain. The whole of the cherry trees are heavily laden, especially early Guigne, Bigereau and Napoleon, which are a splendid variety, and of great height. These are the finest trees that ever came under your notice, thus showing that pruning and skill have been exercised with great discretion. The soil is also very suitable to their growth, being of a light loamy nature. There are several other varieties equally prolific, with thickly clustered fruit. The plum trees also present a beautiful appearance, and it is thought that the rain will improve these, as it will tend to saturate them, which will prevent the hot winds from having an ill effect upon them. All the trees are loaded with fruit, being more plentiful this season than last. About twelve tons of plums were sent to New Zealand from this garden, and it is

anticipated from present appearances that about twenty tons will be gathered this season, which is unmistakably a handsome crop. The principal varieties grown are River's favourite, early Orleans, Goliath, Green-gage, Diamond, Golden Drop, Magnum Bonum, and other varieties. Damsons are also very abundant, as also are the apricots, which have been covered so as to protect them from the frost. The Moor Park, Oullin's early peach, and Mansfield seedling are especially so. Some of the early varieties of apple look very fairly; but the winter varieties are very scarce, with the exception of winter Majetin, which has a heavy crop. There are a large number of fine pear trees, which are bearing prolifically, and some which were planted five years since are very fine specimens of their kind. The principal varieties grown are Williams' Bon Chretien, Gansel's Bergamot, Napoleon, Louise Bonne, of Jersey, Beurre Hardy, Duchesse D'Orleans, and later kinds, consisting of Josephine D'Malines, L'Inconnue, Van Mons, and Zepherin Gregoire. All these are excellent specimens of their variety. The nursery stock comprise a very choice assortment of well-grown plants, all being staked to make them shapely. The apples, of which there are a large quantity, are all worked on blight-proof stalks, this being done for the purpose of resisting the evil consequences arising from blight. All the principal and choice varieties are here grown, and look splendid from the careful and well laid out manner in which they grow. Plums, cherries, damsons and pears are here growing luxuriantly. Cucumbers are a

speciality of Mr Marriott's, and are grown under glass pits, it being necessary to have these pits to promote their early growth. It is well-known that that gentleman has obtained more prizes for cucumbers than any other exhibitor in the colony. They look exceedingly well, and are from 15 in. to 18 in. in length. They are a fine variety, being a seedling raised by himself, and named Excelsior. There is also a magnificent stock of young gooseberry trees of choice varieties. In an adjoining allotment lately taken up under a gardener's license by Mr Marriott, there are 1800 young apple trees from the nursery, and about 600 of these have been destroyed, besides the labels washed away also, consequently the names of them will not be known, except by the foliage. There have been hundreds of loads of soil and manure carted to the allotment, but an immense quantity of it has been washed away. Crossing the main road is the upper garden, which was formerly owned by the late Mr William Wood, and which has not been injured by the rain. In this garden the cherry trees are principally late varieties. Florence, which there are about 100, are all bearing a promising crop. The trees are growing are 18ft each way, between which are vines, and look healthy and promising. There are about two acres of the latter, the principal kinds grown are Sweetwater, Black Hamburg, Muscat Hamburg, Redd Prince, and Crystal, and various other varieties including twelve new choice ones recently imported from Europe by Mr Marriott. Most of them are expected to bear fruit this season. A feature of this garden is the vigorous

growth of the almond trees, which are carrying a fine crop. There are some strawberries grown here of large size, and have not suffered by the wet weather, presenting a very pleasing aspect over about one quarter an acre of ground. Altogether, Mr Marriott's gardens are the best and most carefully attended that can be seen in any upcountry neighbourhood, and is the result of the painstaking and

persevering manner in which that gentleman, with the able assistance of Mr Samuel Sutton, who has been connected with the gardens for 12 years, has improved them to their present and almost perfect condition. Mr Marriott commenced his garden with one quarter of an acre of land, but by assiduity he has extended that area to ten acres.

[Mount Alexander Mail (Vic. : 1854 - 1917), Wednesday 14 November 1883, page 2]

retrieved from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/198273331/21899372>