**BEECROFT 1888**

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On the Pennant Hills.

If you alight at Beecroft, where the country puts on a better appearance, the preliminary work of clearance, the opening of green alleys labelled as streets through the bush, and the piles of cordwood heaped by the roadside, tell of the concurrent arrival of inhabitants, and the departure of the timber. The land is described as poor-ish, "but good enough for fruit" - a sufficiently aggravating remark. Because fruit grows where much else is commercially a failure, that is no reason why fruit culture should be relegated to the worst situations. Good fruit is best obtained on good lands. Around Beecroft, which is on the verge of the Pennant Hills district, there is much good soil of more than one kind, and some especially suited to the growth of varieties of fruit not successfully raised elsewhere. The elevation of the district is considerable. Pennant Hills station, which lies low, has an altitude, of 528ft. The adjacent ridges are much higher, and are crowned with orange, lemon, peach, and apple trees, but more especially the apricot, which grows here with a success noted for miles around. The orchards, like the inhabitants, look very healthy. Many of the trees encountered have celebrated their jubilee; and the same is true of many of the inhabitants.

On the high ridge, along which the Parramatta-road runs, and at the junction of the road going to the Pennant Hills station is a little hamlet rejoicing in the style and title of Thompson's Corner. Around this petty focus are gathered many fine orchards. One of them, Mountain View, the property of Mr. George Bellamy, will serve as a specimen of the rest. Some fifteen acres of good land, hillside, but not over-steep, are covered with fruit trees, chiefly of two generations.