

From M. E. Miller
With the Compliments of

Alexander Kenell
M. E. Miller

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL

CONVENTION.

Held at Syracuse, September 14, 1849.

Printed by V. W. SMITH & CO., Syracuse.



KIRTLAND.

R. H. Pease Lith. Albany.

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PROCEEDINGS.

THE members and delegates of this, the second meeting of the N. A. Pomological Convention, assembled at the Common Council Room at 9 o'clock A. M.

The collection of Fruits was far better than expected, from the fact of there being very few this season, grown in any of the Western or Eastern States, as compared with usual seasons. Splendid collections of Apples were sent from Illinois, and fine collections of Pears, Peaches, and Grapes, were presented by gentlemen from various parts of the States and Canada.

JAMES DOUGALL, of Canada West, called the Convention to order, and nominated Col. BENJAMIN HODGE, of Buffalo, as temporary Chairman.

On motion of Dr. HERMAN WENDELL, Mr. M. B. BATEHAM, of Ohio, was appointed temporary Secretary, who proceeded to read the call of the Convention, from the proceedings of last year's Convention, as follows:—

Mr. J. D. G. NELSON, Chairman of the Committee of seven, appointed to take into consideration the propriety of holding future Pomological Conventions, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

The Committee appointed under the resolution enquiring into the expediency of calling future Pomological Conventions, having had the same under consideration, make the following report:—

Whereas, The N. Y. State Agricultural Society in drawing together this present Convention, have brought together an assemblage of men and fruits which promises great advantage to the public at large, it is thought best to perpetuate the same, therefore,

Resolved, That hereafter an annual assemblage or Convention shall be held under the name of "NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION."

Resolved, That this Convention shall be held in the coming year of 1849, in the town or city in which the New York State Agricultural Fair may be held—to convene its session the first day succeeding the closing of the Fair—and that the Recording Secretary of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society shall be entrusted with the charge, and respectfully solicited to give due notice of the time of meeting, by means of Agricultural Journals, and cards of invitation to gentlemen Pomologists and Horticultural Societies throughout the Union and the Canadas, that they may send delegates, or attend, and bring or send specimens of Fruits for exhibition.

On motion of Mr. GOODSSELL, of Greece, a Committee of five persons was appointed by the Chair, to nominate officers for, and also to report rules and regulations for the guidance of the Convention. The following gentlemen constituted that Committee:—

N. Goodsell, of Rochester; F. R. Elliott, of Ohio; Charles Downing, of Newburgh; A. Bryant, of Buffalo; J. P. W. Allen, of Oswego.

On motion of HERMAN WENDELL, all gentlemen present, who took an interest in the subject of Horticulture, were invited to sit as members.

The following gentlemen reported their names:—

Names of Members.

Dr. HERMAN WENDELL, Albany, N. Y.
 CHARLES DOWNING, Newburgh, N. Y.
 GEORGE ELLWANGER, Rochester, N. Y.
 P. BARRY, Rochester, N. Y.
 J. A. KENNICOTT, The Grove, Ill.
 C. M. HOVEY, Boston, Mass.
 JAMES DOUGALL, Amherstburg, C. W.
 H. P. BYRAM, Louisville, Ky.
 F. R. ELLIOTT, Cleveland, Ohio.
 M. B. BATEHAM, Columbus, Ohio.
 B. HODGE, Buffalo.
 A. BRYANT, Buffalo.
 W. R. COPPOCK, Buffalo.
 JOHN B. EATON, Buffalo.
 LEWIS F. ALLEN, Black Rock.
 R. I. ALLEN, N. Y.
 Dr. A. THOMPSON, Aurora.
 DAVID THOMAS, Aurora.
 J. J. THOMAS, Macedon.
 JAMES M. WHITNEY, Rochester.
 LEWIS EATON, Buffalo.
 H. W. ROGERS, Buffalo.
 THOMAS B. CHASE, Buffalo.
 W. H. SOTHAM, Black Rock.
 C. F. S. THOMAS, Buffalo.
 ALANSON THORP, Syracuse.
 WM. B. SMITH, Syracuse.
 J. C. HANCHETT, Syracuse.
 N. GOODSSELL, Rochester.
 DANIEL DANA, Syracuse.
 JAS. H. WRIGHT, New Haven, N. Y.
 ELECTUS BOARDMAN, Rochester.
 WM. NEWCOMB, Tomhannock, N. Y.
 M. A. RICHARDSON, Howardsville, Ill.
 P. BRONSON, Geneva, N. Y.
 W. WARD, Lenox, N. Y.
 P. BARBER, Homer, N. Y.
 WM. T. MOSELY, Onondaga, N. Y.
 E. L. LEAVENWORTH, Wolcott, N. Y.
 CALVIN CHAMBERLAIN, Foxcroft, Me.
 W. G. VERPLANCK, Geneva, N. Y.
 E. P. PRENTICE, Albany, N. Y.
 Hon. S. MILLER, Rochester, N. Y.
 JAMES J. MAPES, Essex Co., N. J.
 Dr. N. T. SORSBY, Havana, Alabama.
 M. D. BURNETT, Syracuse, N. Y.

J. G. TRACY, Syracuse.
 HAMILTON WHITE, Syracuse.
 WM. M. SLONE, Rochester, N. Y.
 J. T. WHIPPLE, Greenwich, N. Y.
 CHARLES P. COWLES, Syracuse.
 T. C. MAXWELL, Geneva.
 G. B. JASTRAM, Providence, R. I.
 ARCHIBALD STONE, Lampsons, N. Y.
 AMOS BRIGGS, Schaghticoke, N. Y.
 J. G. BARNES, De Ruyter, N. Y.
 N. B. ROGERS, Lockport, N. Y.
 D. S. MOSELY, Skaneateles, N. Y.
 CHARLES LEE, Penn Yan.
 JAMES H. HOOKER, Rochester.
 MILLER MOODY, Bellville, O.
 A. SAUL, Newburgh, N. Y.
 S. YEOMANS, Rochester.
 F. H. HASTINGS, Chicago, Ill.
 RUFUS COSSIT, Onondaga, N. Y.
 J. W. P. ALLEN, Oswego, N. Y.
 SAMUEL B. PARSONS, Flushing, N. Y.
 B. K. BLISS, Springfield, Mass.
 C. B. SEDGWICK, Syracuse.
 H. P. PENNIMAN, Syracuse.
 ADAM FERGUSSEN, Watertown, C. W.
 JAMES R. LAWRENCE, Syracuse.
 V. W. SMITH, Syracuse.
 A. Z. McCARTY, Pulaski.
 A. C. YOUNGLOVE, Rushville, N. Y.

The Committee appointed to nominate officers, reported the following:

For President, J. A. KENNICOTT, of Ill.

For 1st Vice-President, JAS. DOUGALL, C. W.

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| " 2nd " | " | HERMAN WENDELL, N. Y. |
| " 3d " | " | C. M. HOVEY, Mass. |
| " 4th " | " | M. B. BATEHAM, Ohio. |
| " 5th " | " | H. P. BYRAM, Ky. |
| " 6th " | " | JAMES J. MAPES, N. J. |

Secretaries, F. R. ELLIOTT, of O., and B. HODGE, of N. Y.

The President on taking the Chair, expressed himself grateful for the honor conferred upon him in appointing him to preside, and regarded it as a compliment to the West. Seeing the venerable Pomologist, DAVID THOMAS, present in the room, he desired that he be invited to take a seat beside him.

On motion of Dr. HERMAN WENDELL, D. THOMAS was invited to take a seat with the President.

The Committee on Rules and regulations, reported the following:

ORDER OF PROCEEDING.

1 That a Committee, consisting of CHAS. DOWNING, P. BARRY, and S. B. PARSONS, be appointed—whose duty it shall be to bring up varieties of fruits,

in order for an expression of members of the Convention, as to qualities, &c.

2. That members shall be desired to make brief remarks, and comport themselves to advance the rapid performance of the business of Convention and when otherwise the President shall at once call to order.

3. That when any fruit is brought up and introduced by the Committee as first, second, or third rate, if any member of Convention knows it otherwise, he will so express himself, or it will be passed by Convention, understandingly, and without remark, as introduced by the Committee.

4. That a Committee of three be appointed to examine fruits exhibited, report their names, the names of their exhibitors, and when any varieties are exhibited under local names or synonyms, let it be mentioned in order that the exhibitor as well as the public be informed of the true names of such variety.

5. That a Committee of three be appointed to examine all Seedlings exhibited, to judge of their characters, and in such judgment to be guided strictly by the 1st rule of the series of Pomological rules, adopted by the N. A. Convention of 1848. When Committee judge a fruit to fall below the standard, let them summon before them the exhibitor or originator of the fruit, in order that he may be made satisfied by comparison with others of its unworthiness to name and introduction.

6. That the two last named Committees perform their duties before the Morning Sessions, after adjournment, or during recess.

7. That the reports of State Committees be presented to the Secretaries, and by them incorporated in the proceedings.

On motion, the Chair appointed the following persons to make up the two remaining Committees not provided for in the report of the Committee.

On Examination of Names—N. GOODELL, of Rochester, JAS. DOUGALL, of Canada West, C. M. HOVEY, of Boston.

On Seedlings—A. SAUL, of Newburgh, J. J. THOMAS, of Macedon, and A. BRYANT, of Buffalo.

Letters and reports from State Fruit Committees were handed in, and in accordance with the 7th rule were deposited with the Secretaries.

The following preamble and resolutions were then, after a few explanatory remarks, introduced by Dr. HERMAN WENDELL, of Albany, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The National Pomological Convention, held at Buffalo in Sept., 1848, under the auspices of the New York State Agricultural Society, composed of delegates from fifteen States and the two Canadas, was the FIRST general Convention of such character ever convened in the United States; and whereas that Convention unanimously resolved, that hereafter an annual Convocation of like character should be held under the title of the NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION, and that the first meeting with that title should be held in the autumn of 1849, at the place where the great fair of the New York State Agricultural Society was to be held, and on the day succeeding the close of said fair; therefore we consider this Convention entitled by courtesy to perpetuate itself; but being aware that a Convention of an analogous character was held in the city of New York in the autumn of 1848, and also that said Convention organized itself into a permanent association, under the title of the American Congress of Fruit Growers, which is to assemble in said city of New York on the 2nd day of October next, and believing that the advancement of Pomological science as well as inclination and interests of Pomologists throughout this continent will be most promo-

ted by a merging hereafter of the two apparent conflicting associations into one general organization for future operations; therefore, be it

Resolved, by this Convention, that a Committee of five be designated by its President, whose duty it shall be to attend the coming session of the American Congress of Fruit Growers, and confer with said congress, or a committee whom they may select, in relation to the merging of the two associations, and so far as this Convention is interested, the settling of questions of priority or organization, place of next meeting, and title of association shall be left to the committees whom the two organizations may appoint, and that we will exert ourselves to induce a general attendance of those interested wherever the joint committee determine the next Convention shall be held; but we cannot omit giving it as our opinion, that the cause of Pomological science will be most promoted, and the feelings of the great mass of Fruit Growers better satisfied, if the meeting should be held at Cincinnati, or some other western city.

The President remarked that he was sent here by the Fruit Growers of Illinois. It was a general feeling among them that they could not attend but one Convention—they could not do without the western people—they therefore wished to merge the two Conventions, and throw themselves upon the the generosity of the people of the east.

In conformity with the resolution just introduced and adopted so unanimously by the Convention, he would appoint the following named gentlemen as delegates to meet in conference with the N. Y. Congress of Fruit Growers:

HERMAN WENDELL, BENJAMIN HODGE, FRANKLIN R. ELLIOTT, CHARLES DOWNING, JAS. J. MAPES.

On motion of Dr. HERMAN WENDELL, the President, J. A. KENNICOTT, of Illinois, was added to the Committee.

The Committee appointed to introduce Fruits for discussion by members of the Convention, then proceeded with their duties by introducing the

SMITHS' ORLEANS PLUM—AS FIRST RATE.

No remarks made; therefore according to the rules of proceedings, adopted. It was silently passed, and as introduced by Committee.

THE DUANE PURPLE PLUM,—AS SECOND RATE.

Mr. HODGE had no objection to its being presented as second rate, but for size and beauty it ranked high.

The Committee stated that they would agree with Mr. Hodge.

THE LAWRENCE FAVORITE,—AS FIRST RATE.

Mr. ELLIOT remarked that this fruit had not been sufficiently tested in Ohio.

Mr. COPPOCK was understood to endorse the remark of Mr. Elliot, saying that it was one of those new varieties of plums which had not been tested at the West.

LONG SCARLET,

A second rate plum, but handsome and fine for cooking.

Mr. J. J. THOMAS considered it third rate, which opinion was expressed by several others.

LUCOMBE'S NONSUCH,—NEARLY FIRST RATE.

DAVID THOMAS had cultivated this variety of plum for several years, and counted only about second rate.

Mr. HOVEY considered the plum of as good flavor for eating as Smith's Orleans, though he had not had much experience in regard to it. It was said not to be a good bearer and rotted on the tree.

Mr. SAUL remarked that the specimens presented were not fair ones by any means. He could pronounce the plum first rate as far as its eating qualities are concerned. It was a very large fruit, and a very good bearer, though not so profuse as many. It was a good grower, and in every respect might be considered as a first rate plum, with the exception of its bearing qualities.

THE FONDANTE D'ANTOMNE PEAR,—FIRST RATE.

THE DUTCHESS D'ANGOULEME,—SECOND RATE.

Mr. HOVEY thought it could not have been seen in its best condition to have been presented as second rate. It had not acquired quite as rich a flavor as other pears. The pears brought one dollar a bushel in Boston. Gentlemen had set thousands of trees for supplying the market. It was fully equal to the Williams Bou Chretien, and although it was not considered first in all respects, it deserved to be rated as high as those ordinarily ranked as first rate.

Mr. BARRY said he took the ground that it could not clearly be called first rate. It was in size a magnificent pear, and it grew very well. The fruit was enormously large—the largest fine pear he knew of. It was as free from diseases generally as any other pear. Although in quality it was not considered first rate, it was a pear which would be useful in the smallest collections. In accordance with the views expressed, the Committee ranked it as second rate.

Mr. COPPOCK. This gentleman's remarks were not fully heard, but he was understood to say that this variety succeeded finely in Western New York—superior to many Belgian pears of late introduction, and the Committee should be careful how they cast a bad reputation upon it.

Mr. HODGE had grown this pear for several years, both on quince and free-stocks, and was hardly willing to see it classed as second rate. In size and beauty, it was first rate, and it was very productive. He apprehended if it was classed as second rate, it would go out to the world as not worth propagating. He knew of few so worthy of being propagated, especially on quince stock.

Mr. PARSONS remarked that if the Committee presented a pear as first rate, which proved in some localities second rate, they would disappoint those in those localities. They did not speak for the whole country, and he did not think that they could say that the pear was first rate in all localities.

Mr. BARRY explained that there were three persons appointed on the Committee to pass upon the fruits; if two of them agree, it was presented. If all others of the Convention differed with the report of the Committee, it was not right that the fruit should go out as having the character given to it by the Committee. Hence it appeared how important it was to take hold of these characters given by the Committee, and discuss them; for if two of them presented a fruit as second rate, and one of them as first rate, it was

important that the Convention, if they agreed with the minority of the Committee, should so express themselves.

Mr. DOUGALL said that in Canada it was always fair and handsome, and considered fully equal to the Williams Bou Chretien.

Mr. BRYANT had had it fruited on its own bottom, on two healthy trees, during the two or three past years. It was hardly a fair fruit, but on the quince it grew perfectly well. He would like to know of gentlemen if it produced good fruit with them on its own bottom?

Mr. DOUGALL said it had produced good fruit on the pear stock.

Mr. HOVEY said the same.

Mr. J. J. THOMAS said it was a pear exceedingly variable—sometimes quite good, but generally and oftener quite poor.

Mr. BARRY remarked that on the pear stock, the chances were against it in Western New York. On the quince stock it was every where good. Long before this fact was known of the Dutchess D'Angouleme, it was recommended by Pomologists as exceedingly fine on quince stock. A gentleman (now dead) who lived at Lockport, once said to him, that he thought nothing in the fruit world so fine as this pear on the quince stock.

Mr. HOVEY coincided with the remarks of Mr. Barry, as to the importance of the expression of opinion by the members of the Convention when they did not agree with the majority of the Committee, by stating facts to the contrary—especially where the fruit was pronounced as second rate, when it was known to be first rate in some localities. He would say that only last week he was at several places near Boston where they cultivated the Dutchess D'Angouleme on the quince, and he never saw such fine pears and in such abundance. It was always good, and must rank more than second rate as a grower. Every one knew that it was one of the most vigorous growers upon quince, and bore every year. All things considered, it was a variety which could not be dispensed with.

Mr. HODGE understood the Committee to say that they reported it as second rate, because it was not always first rate. Sometimes it was first rate, particularly on the quince stock.

Mr. COPPOCK could not see how they could pass upon the qualities of a fruit by taking only one locality. Varying localities materially change the character of the fruit, hence there was a great diversity of opinion in regard to it in different portions of the Union. It was not the same in the Eastern as in the Western States.

Mr. MAPES inquired what would be the objection to saying that a fruit was first rate in most localities, leaving it to be inferred that in some it was not so? Would not that be all the Committee wished to express? If the only objection were, that in some localities it was not first rate, but in most that it was so, it seemed to him the decision of the Committee, accompanied by such a remark, would cover the whole ground.

Mr. BARRY remarked that it was to be borne in mind that the expression of the Committee was not entitled to any more influence than the opinions of other persons recorded in the report of the proceedings. The purpose was, to bring the fruit before the Convention for discussion, and it was necessary in presenting them to mark the fruit somewhere.

Mr. J. W. P. ALLEN, of Oswego, stated that experience in his own locality was limited. Two years ago it was put down third or fourth rate, and again as second.

Mr. HODGE enquired whether it was grown on the quince or pear stock?

Mr. ALLEN, on the pear stock.

GANSSELL'S BERGAMOTTE—FIRST RATE.

Mr. BARRY, of the Committee, remarked that when it was first rate it *was* first rate, and exceedingly fine.

Mr. BRYANT had never yet been able for five, six, or eight years in succession, to grow any one kind of pear and produce perfect specimens. The Bergamotte was a first rate pear, and grew finely. Last year they were perfect—this year miserable.

Mr. ALLEN, of Oswego, said they had had many years experience in relation to this pear at Oswego. They found it first rate in quality, but not as a bearer.

Mr. BARRY said it would not succeed on quince stock, except when double-worked.

Mr. HOVEY regarded it as always first rate when grown well; but as the gentleman of the Committee well expressed, it was always first rate when it is so. The whole aspect of the tree was wild. The underside of the leaf was mealy, and one could tell the tree at the further side of the nursery.—While it was young it required care to raise a handsome tree. At a certain age it grew off well, and bore a fair crop. The best specimen he ever saw was in the collection of J. P. Cushing, of Boston. The tree might have contained 100 pears. Mr. Cushing, whose opinion was good, considered it one of the best pears in his collections, although it was rather a poor bearer—better growing than Winter Nelis. It was very short-jointed, whereas the Winter Nelis was very long-jointed, like the Willow. It was of slender growth; but the Ganssell's Bergamotte made a short, stumpy growth.

Mr. HODGE had been acquainted with this fruit for a number of years. Some four or five years since he received some fine fruit from Canada West, called the Dickson Pear. On cultivation, he found it to be the same pear they were now discussing. It was very highly recommended. He had seen the fruit at St. Catharine's, Canada, where many individuals called it very superior—one of the best in that country. Col. Dickson raised it, and it was called by his name. He did not think it was a full bearer, and would prefer to class it as *nearly* first rate.

The CHAIRMAN enquired if the Dixon Pear was a synonym of the present specimen.

Mr. HODGE said it was.

Mr. GOODSSELL considered it a first rate pear—the best of the Bergamottes. It was a bad grower in the nursery.

NAPOLEON—GOOD SECOND RATE,

A beautiful grower on quince stock—succeeds admirably, and bears bountifully. In a moderately large collection it was a very desirable pear.

Mr. GOODSSELL thought it should be ranked simply as second rate.

ST. GILISTAIN,

By two of the Committee as first, and by one as second rate.

Mr. BARRY.—A beautiful grower—bears moderately. The Committee had known it for a number of years, and always found it unsurpassable—quite as good as the Seckle or any other.

Mr. HOVEY thought if there was a first rate pear in the country it was this.

Mr. DOWNING had grown bushels, and never saw a first rate one in his life.

Mr. HOVEY was not sure it would succeed at all on quince, nor that it was a good bearer, his trees being young. All the trees he had seen were young,

and the fruit invariably fine—a number one. There could scarcely be better fruit. It was of moderate size—about as large as the Tyson.

Mr. WENDELL remarked that the specimen was from his tree, and he had found it a free grower. It was a beautiful tree, and bore well. It was as near first rate as could well be.

Mr. SAUL had never himself tested the St. Ghistain; but he had learned from the judges in Boston that it has proved first rate there. He had tasted them repeatedly in the locality where he resided, but had never found them first rate. He had tasted of both specimens presented, and found neither of them first rate. One of them, he observed, was cracked, and was getting mellow and decaying. He had seen lots of them fall off green, which were mellow and decayed at the core. He had no doubt that what was stated by Mr. Hovey was true in those localities.

Mr. D. THOMAS had cultivated the St. Ghistain, and had never seen any of the defects just mentioned; consequently he supposed there was a difference in different localities. In reference to his own locality, his experience found it to be first rate.

BUFFUM PEAR,

First rate by one of the Committee, second rate by the other two.

Mr. BARRY considered it first rate. Wherever he had seen it ripen, it was much like the White Doyenne, and he preferred it to that pear. It was a good bearer wherever he had known it.

The President had always understood it as only 2nd rate. He had trees for sale, and should be glad if it really was a first rate fruit.

Mr. BARRY thought if the people of Illinois could just taste this fruit, he was satisfied that the Doctor would sell his trees.

Mr. BRYANT had three or four beautiful trees, which grew finely, and produced well. He had had them six, eight, and nine years in bearing, and though he had ripened them at different times, he never could get a sweet, good fruit from them. The subsoil of his ground was clay, and at the surface the soil was rich; yet he found it impossible to get sweet fruit.

Mr. HODGE agreed with Mr. Barry, that it was a first rate grower.

Mr. ALLEN, of Oswego pronounced it first rate, but not quite as melting as White Doyenne.

LONG GREEN—SECOND RATE.

Mr. BARRY.—Remarkable as a grower, juicy, worthy of a place in large collections.

Mr. HOVEY remarked that the Long Green of Autumn was often sent from France for Long Green. They were quite different, but one was equally as good as the other. He stated this only because some might think they had this when they had the other. He considered the Long Green as first rate, though not among the best. About all the Pomologists in his vicinity considered it so, and its cultivation was becoming more and more extended every year.

Mr. ALLEN, of Oswego, said it was a remarkably thrifty tree—a good bearer—good, but not always first rate.

JULIENE—SECOND RATE.

Mr. PARSONS said that a first rate specimen was sometimes seen, but very rarely.

Mr. BARRY said it was a fine grower and bearer—the only trouble was its variability. Though sometimes first rate, it was at others not worth being eaten at all.

Mr. HODGE remarked that the specimen before them was from his own grounds, and was one of the most productive pears on his premises. It was a long time in ripening. Frequently specimens would be ripe two or three weeks before others. They were never first rate unless gathered before they became yellow. Though often nearly first rate, they were generally second rate. He had frequently known them worthless.

Mr. J. J. THOMAS thought it ought to be rejected for general cultivation.

Mr. HOVEY considered the opinions expressed very correct. It was occasionally first rate, but not often. Worthless was a character that did not certainly belong to it. It was a great bearer, and a prettily growing tree. They could always depend upon it for a crop. It was sometimes almost first rate, and about always second rate—never worthless. For years together they had no summer pears; but now they had the Tyson, the Ott, and other pears of recent introduction. It was considered once a first rate pear; but gentlemen were aware that their taste was progressing, and what was good ten years ago, was not so now—because they had other and better fruits. He was glad they had reversed the opinion of last year, which he considered very hasty and inconsiderate.

FREDRICK OF WERTEMBERG—SECOND RATE.

Mr. PARSONS.—A poor grower, and may sometimes be considered valuable, but should not plant it.

Mr. BARRY.—It is a moderate grower, sometimes one of the most beautiful—is very variable—cannot depend on it—for large collections should still be retained—not in small.

Mr. HOVEY agreed with the Committee. He had seen the pears when they attracted more attention than any other in the Mass. Horticultural Society. No wax imitation could be so beautiful. The specimen presented was one from Mr. Bryant, of Buffalo. When they were in their best condition, of beautiful size and shape, with their proper color—a pale yellow and scarlet cheek—there could be no better. It was a variety which he should never want to throw out of his collection. It required a high cultivation. The small ones when about half grown, must be picked, and also those which look rusty, and the remainder will attain a large size.

Mr. BRYANT had fruited this pear for a good many years, and had found it very variable, but a very good pear. He would notice a fact that transpired last year in their Convention. They had compared Mr. Manning's with his own, and Col. Hodge's with Mr. Elliott's. Mr. Elliott produced a specimen twice as large as any of the others, and he informed him that he did it by feeding his trees with bone dust. He had never seen the like of those produced last year.

Mr. ALLEN, of Oswego, said it was one of the earliest bearers, but the most variable pear they cultivated—varying from first rate to worthless. The most beautiful specimens were only equalled in size by the largest pears.

Mr. DOUGALL said it was a pretty fair grower, but not handsome. It had always been inferior with him.

FULTON PEAR.

First rate by two of the Committee, second rate by one.

Mr. BARRY considered it first rate, and had found it so as long as he had

cultivated it. It did well in the Eastern and Northern regions of the country, and in his opinion was very valuable, and entitled to a place in small collections.

Mr. HOVEY had a good deal of knowledge of it for a long time. It was a variety that originated in Maine. He had seen it in Mr. Manning's garden and elsewhere. He was inclined to consider it as *nearly* first rate. Taking all its qualities—the productiveness of the tree, and its hardness, it should be so denominated. It should be in every collection, however small. It had a dark, russet skin. Although it matured about the 1st of October, those which were picked up from the tree as early as the last of August would ripen. This fact would recommend it everywhere. His attention was first called to it by Mr. Manning, whose opinion he had usually found correct in relation to fruits.

PASSE COLMAR—SECOND RATE.

Mr. BRYANT had cultivated it a great many years, and found it a very excellent, early winter pear; and he had never had any that he thought better.

Mr. HOVEY was surprised at the report of the Committee. It had received the first premium of the Mass. Horticultural Society, 1848—he believed, at their exhibition; or what was the same thing as the first, because they did not give the same kind of pear the first, second, or third premium. They had specimens presented of the largest size, and as yellow as gold. In that state no pear can be better—very few as good. It was different from any pear; there was no acid about it—nothing but sugar. He thought if there was any pear entitled to be considered as first rate, it was the *Passe Colmar*. It has a tendency to produce two crops the same season, and unless well supplied with food, by a rich soil, the tree may be injured for the succeeding year's crop. With good cultivation, it was decidedly the King of Pears.

Mr. BRYANT said that as far as his experience went, it would not ripen in a cellar or cold room; but only in a moderately warm room.

Mr. DOUGALL had not succeeded in ripening it perfectly.

Mr. D. THOMAS had seen a notice in the "Farmer's Chronicle," which his friend Bateham had sent him, that a person had taken one of these green winter pears and put it in a warm room. In about a week or ten days it acquired a fine golden color, and was matured. He (Mr. T.) immediately brought up some fruit from a cold cellar, and in just about that period of time they became very fine indeed. He had always understood that there were many more pears that required to be ripened at a higher temperature than was attained in cellars.

Mr. DOUGALL had always endeavored to ripen his in a warm room, and had found no trouble even with the *Easter Beurre*.

Mr. D. THOMAS said they could ripen the *Vergalieu*, as it was called, just when they pleased in a warm room in the fall of the year; but the *Easter Beurre* ripened only in spring—such ought not to be brought into a warm room until their period of ripening arrives; otherwise, their ripening dries them up.

Mr. HOVEY said the subject of ripening pears was little understood. When varieties, now counted as almost valueless, were properly grown and ripened, he thought we should find that we had more good pears than were now generally supposed. He made these remarks, merely for the purpose of inducing gentlemen not to mutilate and cut off their trees too fast. They had better wait till they find out how to ripen the fruit.

Mr. SAUL classed this among the variable pears. He had seen it occasionally first rate, and then again pretty hard and knurly.

On motion, the Convention took a recess until 2 1-2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

TWO AND ONE-HALF, P. M.

After the Convention was called to order, the Committee presented the

BEURRE DIEU,—NEARLY ALWAYS FIRST RATE.

Mr. BARRY. This pear bore well on the quince stock.

THE PRESIDENT said the quince stock was recommended when pear stocks were scarce.

Mr. ALLEN of Oswego considered it second rate on young trees, and first rate on old.

BEURRE D'AMATIS—SECOND RATE.

Mr. BARRY. It was generally found first rate, but the specimen presented was only second rate, if that.

Mr. HOVEY thought the report of last year's Convention on this variety about correct. Upon a tree with an excessive crop, the fruit would be small, otherwise fine.

DIX PEAR,—FIRST RATE.

Mr. COPPOCK asked of Col. Hodge if it was known in this part of the country?

Mr. HODGE said he knew but little about it.

Mr. BARRY said it had a high reputation eastward, but had not been tested to his knowledge in the Western part of New York.

Mr. HOVEY. The specimen here shown is from the collection of Mr. Elliott. It was not usually ripe until December. The specimen was wormy, but all who tasted it said it was first rate. From one particular cause it had not become very well known in New England? It originated in Boston, and was first brought to notice in 1828 or 1829. It was supposed to have sprung from the seed of the St. Germain, which it resembled in quality and habit. In nine cases out of ten it required at least eight years growth. It had been stated to him that it was known to bear before that time, but he had known it to be twelve to eighteen years before bearing. The tree bears in some years 2 1-2 bushels, and they have been sold at \$2 a dozen, or \$30 a bushel. They are very scarce from the fact that the trees generally are not yet bearing. It would not make good trees directly upon the quince—at least not in ten years. It would scarcely keep alive. It was in every respect a first rate fruit. He would assure the Committee that the specimen was prematurely ripe, yet even now it possessed those excellent qualities attributed to it. It was a pear that should be in every collection, and in large quantities.

Mr. BARRY said it would not grow on the quince stock.

EASTER BEURRE,—SECOND RATE.

THE PRESIDENT had fruited the Easter Beurre in Illinois. It seldom remained on the tree long enough to ripen, and he supposed it would take until spring to do so. It bore well at the West, and the fruit was very fair.

Mr. HOVEY could not allow the opinion of the Committee to be recorded, without at the same time having his own recorded,—that it was not a second but a first rate pear, and not only first rate but the best winter pear they yet had seen. Beurre Ranz and some others, have a high reputation, and may be

better; they knew little of them. But if Easter Beurre could be properly ripened, and properly grown, it stood at the head of all that had been cultivated. There were some new pears of Belgian origin lately introduced, of which they had no knowledge. They had some well ripened Easter Beurres and others shrivelled, but every year good specimens were to be found in plenty. The only fault in not attaining perfection, arose from the want of knowledge of the ripening process. They required to be kept in a cool temperature until within a fortnight of maturity, and then brought into a warm room, and when it was ripened, it would become as rich and melting as any pear they possessed.

Mr. HODGE could hardly agree with the gentleman from Boston, in regard to this pear. He had fruited it for eight years, and though he found it a very good bearer, he could hardly class it higher than second rate. He had found a good deal of difficulty in ripening it. It was frequently gritty, and he had almost dispensed with cultivating it for the last two or three years. It was inferior to Winter Nelis or Glout Moreau.

Mr. BARRY said that it fell so far short of attaining maturity on pear stock, that it could not be ranked as first rate. On the quince, it was one of the best of pears. In France, it was one of the finest grown on the continent, but was grown entirely on quince stock. In the winter, they might see them in all the *cafes*, large and fine.

Mr. WENDELL remarked that the specimens he had grown had been altogether on free stocks, and not on quince.

Mr. ALLEN of Oswego said that at Oswego it was found to be an early bearer. He had found a specimen last year which ripened. They put them as second rate, but as more melting than the Beurre Die.

BLEEKER'S MEADOW,—SECOND RATE.

Mr. J. J. THOMAS thought it not better than fifth rate.

Mr. BARRY remarked that a gentleman present in the meeting who cultivated a great many of the best pears known, said that this was his particular favorite—one of the finest for premiums. His own experience however led him to differ from the gentleman, and he did not consider it worth much.

DAVID THOMAS said he had had a large sized tree of this variety, and he became satisfied that it required a more southern latitude.

Mr. BYRAM said that though it was one of the most productive pears in Ky., it was accounted hardly worth bringing to market.

Mr. HODGE considered it unworthy of cultivation.

Mr. HOVEY would not go so far as to say it was unworthy of cultivation.—It wanted to be ripened properly, and then it was a very decent pear, but perhaps hardly second rate.

Mr. ALLEN, of Oswego, said it was a very abundant pear, and by some amateurs accounted first rate. He thought he should put it as second or third rate. It was an early bearer.

The Committee now took up the subject of

APPLES.

The first variety considered, was the

ROXBURY RUSSET—FIRST RATE.

No objection was offered to the opinion of the Committee.

HAWTHONDEN.

First rate for cooking, second quality—productive and handsome.

Mr. J. DOUGALL considered it a profitable variety. If a person has but one tree, plant this, because he would always be sure of a crop—a great and early bearer. In England or Scotland they are in the habit of planting their orchards, every other tree, of this, or Keswick Codlin.

Mr. BARRY made remarks similar to Mr. Dougall's.

Dr. KENNICOTT.—Valuable in productiveness, and so also with Keswick Codlin. Not fit to eat, but useful as a kitchen fruit.

Mr. HOVEY.—It has good qualities in everything but eating—bears young, and profusely. There was much demand for the fruit in his vicinity, from amateurs, who wanted them for show.

BEURRE BOSC—PEAR.

Dr. WENDELL said a free grower and bearer—first rate in every respect.

Mr. HOVEY mentioned one quality—it would not grow well on quince, unless double-worked. Does well upon the pear stock, though rather a tardy grower—no necessity of grafting it on the quince.

MAIDEN'S BLUSH—SECOND RATE.

Very beautiful. The President remarked that it was said to bear well in Southern Illinois.

Mr. BARRY said that this year it bore a good crop—scarcely any other apple trees having borne. It resembled the Hawthonden very much.

AUTUMN SWAAR,

Presented for information.

Mr. GOODSELL had been acquainted with it for many years. It was a very handsome, second rate, Autumn apple.

ALBERT GALLATIN PEACH.

Presented for information.

Mr. BARRY remarked that it was a very delicious peach.

Mr. THORP, who presented this specimen, said he obtained it from Mr. Yeomans, of Wayne Co., but could not tell where that gentleman got it. He supposed it was a kind that had been cultivated for some time.

RAMBO APPLE.

The PRESIDENT said it was the fall and early winter apple of Illinois. It was generally abundant and fair, though the specimen was not so fair as usual.

Mr. BATEHAM said that in Ohio it was esteemed more than any other apple. It was said to have originated in Pennsylvania. It kept until near the middle of winter.

RAWLE'S JANETTE.

The PRESIDENT said that this apple was much praised in middle Illinois.—It succeeds well there, from its habit of late blooming, and thus escaping spring frosts. It was said to be a constant and good bearer, and an excellent keeper.

Mr. BATEHAM stated, that in the valleys of southern Ohio, where their other fruits were liable to decay, from ripening too early, this fruit was admirably adapted. It kept well, and was becoming greatly esteemed.

Mr. BYRAM stated that it was one of their standard fruits in Ky., and they had frequently to make up their store of fruit from this alone, in consequence of the injuries by frost to the other varieties. It was very productive—bearing, generally, every year. He had kept specimens of it till the fourth day of August.

The report of the Committee on Seedlings was then received by Convention, from the Chairman, Mr. A. Saul, of Newburgh, N. Y., as follows:

ON APPLES.

1st. FINK'S SEEDLING—Of the Report of Ohio Fruit Convention. Specimens presented of 1848 and '49; second rate in flavor; and from examination of specimens present, valuable only for remaining juicy and keeping remarkably.

2d. HEICKES SWEET—Of Ohio Fruit Convention. About third rate, and not worthy of cultivation.

3d. SUMMER RUSSET—From Parsons & Co., Flushing; size, below medium; form, roundish conical; color, yellow, partly russetted. A pleasant, rather sweet, and of a moderately rich, spicy flavor; worthy the attention of Pomologists.

PEACHES.

SEEDLING CLING—From W. G. Verplanck, Geneva; large, beautiful yellow peach, of medium quality. The Committee cannot discover that it is worthy of general introduction.

SEEDLING—From Mr. Taylor, Amherstburgh, C. W.; color, red, white flushed; freestone, medium size; melting, of good quality, but having been kept several days, could not decide on its value.

PLUMS.

DORR'S SEEDLING—From Albany; a very productive, new sort; the specimens very imperfect, but the Committee were favorably impressed with its value.

COL. YOUNG'S SEEDLING EGG—An improvement in flavor on the White Magnum Bonum; smaller in size. The Committee can only commend it to further examination.

DENNISTONS' YELLOW SEEDLING—Mottled Seedling, and Pear Shaped Red were in such an imperfect state, from having been kept several days through the fair, the Committee could not decide on the quality.

MADISON—Rather below medium; yellowish green; broadly blotched with reddish brown, rich, sweet and excellent; well worthy of public notice.

TWO SEEDLING PLUMS—From Cazenovia; immature, and the Committee could not discover valuable qualities in them worthy of recommendation.

PEARS.

HEGERMAN—From Flushing, L. I.; closely resembling Buffum in appearance and flavor, if not identical.

In conclusion, the Committee must remark, in justice to themselves, and to the fruits presented to them, that it is impossible to decide satisfactorily on the

character of a new variety, from a single examination; especially if immature or partly decayed, or injured by long carriage, and therefore the Committee would not wish these reports to be regarded as more than partly conjectural.

Many of the members in incidental Convention having signified their intention not to remain in attendance upon the Convention another day, owing, in many cases, to fatigue in attendance on the State Agricultural Fair. It was next deemed advisable to provide some plan for the publication of the proceedings. The Secretary having made some little calculation of the expense, the President stated that to enable the Convention to publish these proceedings, it would require a contribution of two dollars from each member.

Mr. HOVEY moved that the reports of proceedings in this Convention, together with State Fruit Reports, Letters, &c., be prepared and published by the Secretary, under the superintendence of the other officers. Passed.

Many members of the Convention then came forward, and paid the amount assessed by them as above.*

After the usual resolution of thanks to the presiding officers, &c., the Convention adjourned, to meet in accordance with the rule adopted in the resolution of Dr. Herman Wendell, viz: to meet at each time and place as should be designated by the Committee.

In making up this report, the Secretary omits the list of varieties of fruits exhibited, as a matter of no particular benefit to the public, and attended with considerable expense in the publishing.

The following description of a very valuable, new seedling pear, was received from Professor J. P. Kirtland, of Cleveland, Ohio. A painting also accompanied the description, for which, see frontispiece.

KIRTLAND—Synonymes—Seedling Seekle—Kirtland's Seedling.

Size, medium; the circumference six and a half inches; length, including stem, two and a half; form globular ovate; exterior color rich crimson russet, varying to a dull green; texture fine, melting, juicy and rich; color of flesh white; flavor, aromatic, sweet, and in the highest degree delicious; seeds, usually full, short and blackish; stem, six-eighths of an inch in length, thick, and somewhat curved; eye, small, moderately deep, with the sedgments of the calyx short, reflexed and persistent; season, September; color of wood and growth; the wood is of the same color as the fruit, and the general habit of the tree resembles a thrifty White Doyenne.

REMARKS.—In the close of the year 1819 I furnished my brother, H. T. Kirtland, with a few seeds of the Seekel Pear, grown in the State of Connecticut. From these he raised several trees on his farm, in Poland, Mahoning Co., Ohio, one of which he gave me in the year 1825, and which produced the fruit exhibited at the New York State Fair last Autumn, at Buffalo, and noticed in Vol. VIII, pages 108 and 109, of Transactions of N. Y. State Agricultural Society. It is no novelty in Mahoning Co., Ohio, but is well known by every cultivator of fruit, and is esteemed as one of the finest varieties. In hardiness and productiveness it far excels the parent Seekel, and in point of flavor is esteemed as superior by many people.

The name attached to it, has designated it for years, and was applied by the public as a compliment to the originator of the seedling, Henry T. Kirtland.

*The Secretary would here state, to the gentlemen who not hearing this statement and therefore unknowing the requirement, neglected to pay their assessment, that they can forward their dues to him, at Cleveland, Ohio, and receive in return the amount in copies of the "Proceedings."

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION
FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

BY J. A. KENNICOTT, OF THE GROVE, CHAIRMAN.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:

Your Committee for the State of Illinois has directed me to report, personally, as it has been found impracticable for us to meet in session. I would observe however, that I have seen all the members, (with one exception,) and have corresponded freely with them, and with many of our professional brethren, in Northern and Middle Illinois. But I am sorry to be obliged to add, that I have obtained no reliable information from the Southern portion of our State, and which I fear, has in more ways than one, established an indubitable right to the local synonym of "*Lower Egypt*."

It should be borne in mind, that our State extends through more than five degrees of latitude; and that the general aspect and character of the country, though somewhat diversified, is very unlike any of the older States. Its great and distinguishing, or generic features, are its PRAIRIES. They extend with few interruptions from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, west and south, and are the principal lands devoted to cultivation in the State of Illinois.

We have no mountains, and few elevations of sensible note. We are in the habit, when speaking of our lands, of dividing them in the first place, into "Timber" and "Prairie Lands." The timbered lands are again known as, "River Bottoms,"—Groves, Burr Oak Openings, and Barrens. The Prairies are known as "wet" and "dry,"—or high and low,—and "Level" or "Rolling Prairies."

The River Bottoms are often composed of deep, alluvial deposits, and rich natural soils, left from the subsidence of the waters, when our Great Lakes abandoned their southern outlet; and perhaps annual additions from floods; and from the vegetable accretions of unknown years since that event. But much of the timber lands near the streams, are of a different and less desirable order, ranging from those which produce the burr oak, hickory, butternut, black walnut, and basswood, to those covered with the white and black oak. The former of these are always good; the latter generally poor, and often barren, and worthless for agricultural purposes.

It is worthy of note that the timber is always found on the easterly side of the streams, in the Prairie country; and where you find natural timber, there will you find water, more or less permanent and abundant.

The Groves, or "Islands," as they were fancifully called by the old squatters, are scattered over the whole face of the country, and are the only "land marks," and the most beautiful feature of prairie land, as God made it. The Groves are in size from the solitary clusters of trees, that you might count in a breath, up to those of miles in extent, and furnishing fire wood and fencing for hundreds of prairie farms.

The soil of the Groves is, in general, better than that near the lakes and streams, (the alluvion excepted,) partaking more of the nature of the surrounding prairie.

Burr-oak Openings are intermediate in their characters: They are found in detached Groves, or as the skirts of the heavy timber, of the water courses,

and basins. The burr-oak soil is always good, and often excellent. "Barrens" are found every where; some are sandy, others clay; they are fortunately of small extent, though of frequent occurrence, in the timber region. The sandy barrens produce well when highly manured; the clay is avoided by all cultivators of American origin.

The best, and fortunately for immediate agricultural purposes, the largest sample of wet Prairie, is to be found at and near the lake end of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, along the ancient outlet of the lake, in the vicinity of Chicago. Much of this prairie, where underlaid with sand or gravel, is easily drained, and makes good land though apt to suffer from drouth. That over clay with very deep and peaty soil is liable to the same objection; but after thorough ploughings, it is more retentive of moisture, and produces constant and most abundant crops.

Many small tracts known as "wet prairie" fifteen years ago, and rejected by the first settlers, have become dry, by being annually mown and fed down by domestic animals, without other than its natural drainage, and exposure to sun and air, by the destruction of the impervious screen of tall "slough grass."

The "Dry Prairies" are generally very similar in appearance so far as surface is concerned. Small portions of "level prairie" are found every where, but to constitute dry prairie it must be "rolling." Between the waves on this great ocean of God's own beautiful sod, are the "sloughs," the terror of the early emigrant, and the most valued possession of his successor, as often affording water, and always an unfailling and most luxuriant natural meadow. These sloughs are the drains of the dry prairie. They are in general nearly parallel, and oftenest at about a right angle with the course of the rivers; they are from 40 to 160 rods asunder, and sometimes of many miles in length. The soil of the dry prairie is from 12 to 18 inches deep, in this region—the wet prairie, in general, much deeper—and the alluvion, as in all countries, of irregular, and often astonishing depth.

SOIL, SUBSOIL MANURES, &c.

C. R. OVERMAN, Pomologist, of Canton, Ill., writes me "That the natural soil of our country is evidently an alluvial deposit, abounding more or less with lime; that of the prairies is a rich black loam, on an average two feet in depth with a trace of fine sand. In the timbered lands, a strong clay soil, of less depth, generally predominates, though in some places it is a deep rich pliable loam, similar to that of 'river bottoms.'"

Mr. E. HARKNESS, writes—"My locality is 20 miles west from Peoria, Lat. 40 deg. 30 min., on the table lands, elevated about 250 feet from the Illinois River. The soil is a rich dry mould, resting upon a bed of yellow clay, slightly mixed with fine sand. I have found the roots of young apple trees, not more than 4 inches in diameter, which had penetrated *four feet* downwards into this clay, and ten feet from the collar of the tree,—so that this may be regarded as permeable to the roots of trees," &c., &c.

M. L. DUNLAP, says—"The whole country north of the 'The Coal Region' appears to be underlaid with lime rock, of various qualities, of unequal strata, and irregular dip. It occasionally crops out, and furnishes an excellent caustic lime for building, and agricultural purposes, while, in some places, it is magnesia, and highly charged with sulphate of iron."

That the surface soil is every where "highly impregnated with the salts of iron," says Mr. Dunlap, "is easily shown by driving a green oak stake into it, and letting it remain a few weeks, when it will be found that the iron has united with the tannic acid of the oak, and given it a fine blue black color."

There is a great abundance of lime in our subsoil, every where, through this region, and I doubt not iron and potash, in a liberal proportion. But as I have specimens of soil and subsoil now in process of analysis by Professor Blaney of Rush Medical College, I shall await his report, hoping to append it to this paper in season for publication. Professor Blaney's analyses have been interrupted by the prevailing epidemic in Chicago. But it will come in good time, and will be scientific and reliable.

I will merely say that probably, nine-tenths of this region has a *clay subsoil*—the balance, sand and gravel. The white clay is of various depths; I have found it from 15 to 25 feet; and then blue clay to the depth of 40 feet; after that quick sand, above the lime stone. Our soil is, in general, very dark colored,—in fact, black, from carbon probably. The soil becomes lighter colored by cultivation, and as our English neighbors say, “sadder”; and *then it requires manure*,—and manure is at all times *useful*—in no country more so—though *not always necessary*. We are not in the habit of curing or using our manures with much care; further south, the cattle yard is removed, instead of the manure heap.

For fruit trees, especially the apple and quince, I have found barn yard manure, half decayed chips, charcoal, and ashes serviceable. I have tried lime, but except on a small peaty spot, without benefit. Mr. Dunlap says he has killed apple trees by ashes: perhaps he gave them too much. I have found it decidedly serviceable,—and so says Mr. Miller. Many seem to think that the annual burning of the prairie furnishes potash. They forget that this potash comes from the soil to which it is returned in a free state, and immediately taken up again. The combustion probably furnishes most of the carbon in the surface soil, and this is taken from the atmosphere. The soil is generally blackest, where deepest; and dryest, where the subsoil is sand or gravel, or as clay or sand predominates in the surface. Generally, that soil which contains the least undecomposed vegetable fibre, suffers the least from drouth, and vice versa. But deep and constant cultivation and judicious drainage, soon equalize and regulate evaporation, infiltration, and absorption, on most of our lands over clay; and judicious manuring, and occasional “seeding down” will keep them good, though they will gradually lose their dark color in the process, and doubtless much of their natural fertility.

Few orchards receive much manure, and it is highly probable, that more trees (taking all sorts) are injured than benefited thereby, in our rich prairie country. Mr. L. Montague writes Anson S. Miller, thus, “I will here remark that there is not one foot of land in Illinois that requires manure for fruit trees, other than ashes and lime, and old compost,” &c., &c. “Peaches, plums, and cherries, should never taste manure.”

CLIMATE.

The climate of Illinois is extremely variable. Our winters, though comparatively short, are very cold, and we have, in general, little snow to protect plants, at and below the surface of the earth. The ground, some seasons, freezes deeply,—others, not at all, except in exposed situations. Our winter is often a double one,—a “cold snap” in December, mild in January, and then cold again in February. The changes of temperature are sudden and violent, and fruit trees suffer therefrom in various ways. We can not plant in autumn with any degree of safety, as the constant freezing and thawing of the ground throws the plant from its bed, unless artificially protected, by a deep covering of litter, or a mound of earth; and then, the shock that the *vital principle* receives, from their removal, renders them less

able to withstand the effects of our sudden and violent alternations of cold and heat, and a liability to disease, or actual death is the result.

In this corner of the state, the influence of the great Lakes is beneficially felt during fall and winter, and reversely in spring and early summer. Our coldest winter winds are from the west; and those of spring and summer, from the north and east.

As you go south, the climate, though still variable, is much milder, until at its southern extremity we find it as propitious as that of some of the southern states,—the cotton plant maturing a partial crop, and the indigenous cane, though dwarfish, surviving the winters.

I have received no figures from the South, and cannot therefore give the range of the thermometer from below our Lake region. But the Report from Missouri will doubtless supply this deficiency.

I regret having to say that I have kept no register, and that the figures furnished me by my friends in northern Illinois, are so widely different, that I am inclined to believe that some of their instruments must be imperfect. I merely state that the range, as given me (for 1849) by men of science and observation, is from 30 deg. *below* to 102 deg. *above* zero, in the shade.

I will give a few figures from the most reliable sources only:

| | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|-----------------|
| 1849. | For Chicago: by Professor Blaney, | Coldest day, | 15 deg. below 0 |
| | Near the Grove: by M. L. Dunlap, | " | 16 deg. " 0 |
| 1848. | At Elgin: by Mr. Truesdell; Dec. 7th, | " | 16 deg. " 0 |
| 1849. | " " " " January 20th, | " | 19 deg. " 0 |
| 1849. | At Naperville: by Mr. Elsworth, | " | 20 deg. " 0 |
| 1849. | Near Galena: (questionable authority.) | " | 30 deg. " 0 |

I have the most complete report from our Member, Hon. Anson S. Miller, of Rockford, Winnebago Co., Illinois, (some 50 miles north west of The Grove,) and which may be taken as an average standard for northern Illinois. Mr. Miller writes me, that he is indebted to Doctor Haskell, of Rockford, for his figures, and that the Doctor is minutely regular and correct in his observations. I condense as follows:

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1848. | March: From 10 deg. to 40 deg. above zero, at sunrise. |
| | But one day, March 3d, after the 20th Feb.,—below 20 deg. above 0. |
| 1848. | April: Average, 35 deg. above 0, at sunrise. |
| 1848. | May: " 45 deg. " 0, |
| 1848. | June: " 60 deg. " 0, " Hottest day, 19th, 92 deg., at noon. |
| 1848. | July: " 60 deg. " 0, " Hottest day, 10th, 96 deg., at noon. |
| 1849. | Coldest day, February 19th, 18 deg. below zero, sunrise. |
| 1849. | Average of January and February, 20 deg. above zero at sunrise; warmest winter day 48 deg. above zero; One of the coldest winters since the settlement of the country. |

I have no record of the quantity or depth of the snow—both were considerable—though not equal to some winters. The ground was but little frozen.

The proportion of clear sun-shiny days, during our summer and autumn months—an average of seasons—is as more than two to one, and believed to be nearly one-third more sunshine than east of the Lakes.

From the weight of testimony, and all the figures received, I am inclined to believe that the range of the thermometer for 1849 may be set down, at 117 deg., or from 19 deg. below zero at sunrise, to 98 deg. above, at noon, "in the shade"; and where the transitions are as rapid and considerable as in this latitude, you may readily infer, that none but the hardiest trees, with wood fully matured, are at all times safe from the influence of such great and sudden changes of temperature. The past winter and the present summer furnish the most abundant and discouraging proofs of this fact. Perhaps at least three-fourths of the peach trees were entirely, or partially winter-killed, throughout this entire region. Pears have suffered very considerably, especially those which made a large growth the preceding season. Plums have been injured in some places, and even apples. Nectarines and

apricots are mostly dead. Cherries, where but little wood was made, have withstood the winter as well as usual. But shrubbery has been badly cut down; nearly all the hardy June Roses killed to the snow,—and even Lilacs dead, “root and branch.”

Our summer has been a cold one—the few hot days to the contrary nevertheless—and the early growth in the orchard and nursery has not been large; and the occasional very hot days, or some other malignant influences, have scared and blighted the early foliage, as with fire. Nearly all the fruits—the locust, and some hardy forest trees, even—have shown more or less of this partially scorched appearance, in the June and July leaves, though the growth at this time (August 30th) is good, and the foliage healthy.

But, notwithstanding all these grave disasters, and natural drawbacks, it will be seen that Illinois “is bound to be,” perhaps, the greatest fruit country in the world. Labor is dear, and trees have heretofore been difficult to procure. Still we have persevered, and shall continue to plant trees, until the bleak and naked prairie swells, shall become a rich and varied landscape of dotted fruit groves, gemmed and glowing with Pomona’s ruddy treasures, drawn from the well wrought mine below, the ardent sun, and the free air above, which shall then come to all with

“The Breath of orchards big with bending fruits;”

With health in its breezy sigh, and luscious promise in its grateful odors—more delicious than “the perfumes of the east,” and more healthful than all the nostrums from the days of Hippocrates down to this—par excellence—the *age of patent medicines*.

It is nearly 200 years since the first settlement of this State by the French, at Kaskaskia and Cahokia; yet I have no certain evidence that there is a fruit tree of a cultivated variety, 40 years old in Illinois,—and I am well assured that there are but very few of even half that age.

There were a few squatters in northern Illinois—possibly a dozen or more families—at the time of the Black Hawk War in 1832. But as the Indian title was not extinguished until the spring of ’35, no permanent settlement was commenced until the summer and autumn of that year, so that in reality the country is but from 14 to 15 years old, counting from the date of the first considerable immigration. When I first visited this region, only fifteen years ago, there were not ten families where there are ten thousand now; and I did not see a fruit tree, or even so much as a currant bush, this side of the present capital of the State, though I was told that there were some seedling trees near Peoria; and afterwards I saw apple trees near the garrison ground, Chicago, planted by General Beaubian, while Chicago was our remote trading post; and there were also a few trees set by Doctor Harmon, probably about 1833 or ’34,—but except some worthless Morello cherries, these have all disappeared.

The first occupants here were mostly of the true squatter breed—genuine frontier’s men—that, like “the white man’s fly,” the honey bee, always precede the actual settler,—so that no attention was paid to orcharding; and in truth few of us cared much about planting trees, until we could be tolerably certain that we were planting upon our own lands; and of this, we had no evidence until after the surveys,—and no security, until after the land sales. The last of these events occurred only about 8 years ago; and the former, the year before. From this era, we date the commencement of fruit culture in northern Illinois, though for some years thereafter we were all poor, having been drained by our land purchases, and more especially by the 50-100 to “cent per cent,” per annum, which we had pay those who *kindly* loaned us a good share of the money.

Now, let us see what has been done, in these nine years, at most. I am a son of New York, and love my native state; and yet I declare without fear of contradiction, that we, in northern Illinois, have done more to create good orchards in the last nine years, than you had done, "west of Cayuga Bridge," up to the date of our commencement. Go where you will over these broad prairies, which fifteen years ago were the homes of the "Red Men," and were tenanted only (except along the streams) by the wolf and the badger, the prairie chicken and sand hill crane, and you will find orchards and gardens, not equal, of course, to yours *now*, but *better* than the majority of yours nine years ago; not larger, for you have many orchards of large seedling trees—or had then; I see you are working the tops of some of them now, and for this you deserve much credit. But we are doing better still. We are planting the best known sorts, and we are planting them liberally, and they will liberally,—aye, abundantly, repay the care and expense. The best evidence of what an insular region may be doing in the way of planting orchards, with the certainty of ample profits, should be sought in the number and extent of her Nurseries, and the amount of trees imported from abroad: but of this in its place.

We have here some seedling orchards from 10 to 15 years old; further south they are more numerous, as well as older. It is generally remarked—and with truth—that our seedlings are better than the same class in the eastern states. Soil and climate have doubtless much, if not most, to do with this fact; still I am led to believe, despite the Van Mon's theory, that the selection of seeds may have had its influence. We reason from analogy, and are apt to believe that like should produce like. We know that the rule does not hold good with regard to fruits; still we follow it,—at least here, and we have seen some astonishingly favorable results. I will state an instance: My brother, H. Kennicott, purchased a part of his farm from a man who had a peach orchard on it, from the pits of "Hoosier Peaches," to wit: Small, worthless, late varieties, principally clingstones. These trees have borne 5 or 6 years, and have withstood the last hard winter. I have annually seen and tasted the fruit, for they produce abundantly,—and they are actually worthless, except for the seeds. Illinois hogs would not eat them, and they are all alike, and like their originals. Now for the reverse: Another neighbor while east, some ten years ago, ate a few good early peaches, probably Barnard's early. He planted the seeds—about a dozen,—they grew, and have borne 6 or 7 years—two of the crops very large—and sold readily at \$3 50 to \$4 per bushel. Of these, I have eaten annually; they are large, and all good and early, and all alike,—and as the others, like their progenitor, as nearly as the person can recollect. These, of course, are extreme cases,—still, I think they will find their parallels in all parts of the state; and I have certainly tasted *ten* passing good seedling apples here, where I have *one* in New York: and from my position I have the tasting of many.

There is a few miles from The Grove, quite an orchard of seedling pears, 14 years from seed, planted here. All are bearing, and what is curious, are bearing abundantly this year: the only ones I have seen. These trees came into bearing from the 9th to the 12th year, and the fruit is said to be good, though I do not remember having eaten of it.

The most of trees planted in Northern Illinois, until within the last five or six years, were either from grown seedlings, or "Hosier Trees," generally from the region of the Wabash, though some came from Southern Illinois. These are often seedlings or sprouts, though sold "under name" by the tree peddlers. These trees have made a famous growth, but they show very little fruit; and when eventually worked, are too often found no better than our own seedlings. Indeed, my neighbor, Mr. Talcott, has quite a number of size

to produce 16 or 20 bushels of fruit each, and I do not believe that they have borne one bushel each, all counted, since they were planted 14 years ago; and what is somewhat characteristic of "Hoosier Trees"—or pedler's trees—they are all of the same worthless, if not nameless, variety. But for their lack of fruitfulness, I cannot account—it being a general complaint urged against southern trees in Northern Illinois. I have thought that this might be owing to the fact that most of these early trees, were worked on sprouts, or small portions of the root, of large seedlings; but it is more likely that the change of climate is the cause of this unfruitfulness, joined to their astonishingly rapid and uninterrupted growth. Most trees brought from the north and east, have come early into bearing, and have not made wood with great rapidity.

OF NURSERIES.

There is no part of the world better supplied with nurseries than Illinois, though few of them in the north are as yet fairly operating "on their own bottom,"—most of them being either connected with, or purchasing largely of Ohio and New York nurserymen. As I am somewhat deeply interested in the business, I have taken great pains to come at the nursery statistics of the North West. I have visited many of the nurseries,—in fact most of the larger ones, and believe that there are now, either partially operating or about to operate, or in some stage of actual inception, not less than 50 establishments, within a space of from 50 to 60 miles north, west, and south of The Grove, Lake Michigan being on the east. Twelve of these nurseries are in this county, and most of the others within 25 miles of me, "as the crow flies."

Of the nurseries in this county, I can say from personal inspection, that at least five of them are quite respectable, and though I am not positively certain, containing, I should judge, from 30,000 to 80,000 trees, not including young seedlings, of which one nursery has perhaps over 100,000, and all have more or less. And in addition to fruit trees, the most of us are well supplied with ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants, of which some of us have certainly as great a variety as most eastern nurserymen.

Of the nurseries in Kane Co. (one of our best and richest interior counties, by the way) I will let Mr. Truesdell of Elgin speak. He says in a late letter, "Six nurseries are already established in our county, setting annually 100,000 grafts or more. How much budding is done, I know not. I intend setting this summer about 30,000," &c.

"North, west, and south, nurseries are established, or being commenced, in nearly the same ratio. So that, with what our eastern brethren are doing for us, and the 'right smart chance' of southern trees, annually peddled through the country, it will come to pass, one of these years, that fruit trees and ornamental shrubs, will be about as plenty on the Prairies, as burr oaks and hazel brush are on the barrens." Mr. T. is wrong there; "burr oaks and hazle brush" do not flourish "on the barrens." It is always comparatively good land where they predominate.

Mr. Harkness of Peoria writes me, of recent date, "Our operations in starting young stock this season have been very successful. We have started 31,000 root grafts; 80,000 young seedlings for budding; 40,000 stocks for grafting; and about 200,000 Virginia Thorn plants; and 350,000 wild orange plants,—all of which look remarkably well."

There are many large nurseries in Mr. H.'s vicinity, and through the entire central portion of the State. One nurseryman, not two degrees south of us, sold the past season, as I have been informed, (though it needs confirmation) not less than 20,000 apple trees, under name. John Slater of St. Albans, writes me that he sold 13,000 the last spring, and the season was bad, and

competition active. Mr. S. propagates all except peaches, nectarines, &c., by *layers*, which root and are fit for planting in about 3 to 4 years. The best are then sold, and the balance set in rows in the nursery and relayed. He sells at \$40 per 1,000, or at 6 1-4 cents each, "all round," apples, pears, plums, shrubbery, &c.—Not much chance for successful competition there, if his trees *are*, as he asserts, better rooted, larger, finer, healthier, and earlier, and better bearers, than worked trees of the same varieties.

All the nurserymen through Northern and Middle Illinois, with whom I have communicated, as well as those in Southern Wisconsin, (our own neighborhood—where roads were impassable, alone excepted) write me, that they have "sold bare," and that the business promises well; still I fear that some of us must "wind up" or do worse. It strikes me that we are, at least about here, as they say south, "running the thing into the ground"; and yet, this one fact speaks volumes for the good taste and intelligence of our inhabitants, and the adaptation of our soil and climate to the cultivation of fruits.

Nurserymen, are I believe always intelligent men, and should be shrewd observers, though I fear we are *not all* good "business men." Our "bumps" of benevolence grow with our trees, and we are very apt to think that we are benefiting ourselves when we are doing good to others. Our "hope is large"; our fruition small. We create the plant; others eat the fruit, or enjoy the profits. But the practice of our beneficent profession humanizes us, and simplifies and refines our tastes, and makes us better and happier, if not richer and wiser men. Why then should we not be satisfied with our share of the good we create?

The price of nursery trees varies much in different portions of our State; from Mr. Slater's tariff of charges, viz: "Sixpence a tree for all sorts, and two trees given for every twenty purchased," up to our rates, which are substantially the same as in Western New York; though pears and plums and choice cherries (which are all imported) have sold at from 50c. to \$1 each according to size, and not often in reference to scarcity of variety, or the popular demand. Apples and peaches only are abundant with us; other fruits are never found equal to demand. South of Joliet the ruling rates are lower than ours—say about 12 1-2 cents each for apples and peaches, and about 25 cents for pears, plums, and cherries, when of choice sorts; but as here, these latter are not abundant, and their varieties are limited.

In the North, our catalogues are based upon those of New York and Ohio, though some of us have many southern names, unknown to you, and I fear, some worthless fruit; and I have seen near fifty synonyms given as *varieties* in one catalogue, the *true* name being there also; and I have counted forty-seven *new names* in a southern catalogue. Nurserymen, as well as orchardists south, complain that they have received many trees not *true* to name, some of them from eastern establishments. Our lists need purging, and some of our orchards, like Mr. Allen's pears, may need reworking. Still, we think that we are not worse off in this particular, than you of Western New York.

THE APPLE.

Here, as elsewhere north of 36 deg., the apple is the principal fruit. We have tested, or are now testing, all the varieties of Western New York and Ohio, and some of our nurserymen have introduced the most approved of the Southern Illinois and Indiana varieties. Mr. Overman of Canton, Ill., sent me a box of their early local sorts, and I am compelled to acknowledge that to my taste, the apples sent were fully 2nd rate, and at least as good (I think much better) as some now generally cultivated as the Oslin, Hawthornden, &c.; and as they are set down as free growers, early and abundant bearers,

&c., it is more than probable that some of these sorts are worthy of general cultivation in the West.

I shall not attempt a description of these local sorts: 1st, Because I have seen but little of them; 2nd, Because I hope to be able to present the later ones with this paper to the Convention; and 3rd, I shrewdly suspect that some of them will prove to be old varieties under new names, though most of those sent me by Mr. Overman are known western seedlings.

We have fruited about 50 sorts under name, here at the Grove, and some of my friends have fruited more. Ours that have come into bearing are not all true to name; but are mostly so. Some varieties, that are said to bear well at the east, are miserably unproductive here. The Oslin, Harrison, (worthless any way,) Newtown Pippin, Roxbury Russet, &c., &c.; and I am afraid that the universal Rhode Island Greening will prove a shy bearer, though the specimens we have had are all very large and fair. The Spy, Spitzenberghs, &c., have not yet fruited with me: neither has the Baldwin, and this, also, is much distrusted with us. From all parts I hear complaints of some of these varieties, the Newtown Pippin particularly, as unfitted for a hot and dry climate; and the Rho Greening and Roxbury Russet as cracking at the collar of the nursery tree, and as shy bearers in the orchard. All that have fruited it, speak highly of Rawle's Janette as the apple for Illinois; and say that the White and Yellow Bellefleur are "perfectly at home," on our rich prairie soils. Most Southern men speak of "Limber Twig" in terms of great praise. It is said that the Carthouse or "Red Romanites," of the South, is one of the most profitable market varieties "from one end of the Mississippi to the other." Here, of all keeping apples, the Poughkeepsie, or Winter Russet, has produced the largest crops.

OF AUTUMN APPLES.—The Rambo receives the most praise further south. Here, all the varieties that have come into bearing, appear to be as good, or better, than at the east; and, with the exception of the Oslin, the summer fruits are all at home here. The Yellow Harvest is rather a shy bearer as yet, but the fruit is large, and generally fair, and most excellent; and we hope that older trees may produce better crops. Of all early fruits, that not over good sort, the Keswick Codlin, is the most early, uniform, and enormous bearer.—With regard to the season of maturity, I am fully persuaded that EARLY FRUITS, if differing at all, are rather *later* here, in the Lake Regions, than in the same latitudes near the Seaboard; and that most WINTER FRUITS mature earlier than at the east. In the former, I may be mistaken, as my opportunities for observation have not been great; and here, when they first come into bearing, are apt to be a little anomalous in their fructification. I account for the fact by the character of our late spring, and early summer weather, which is comparatively cold near the Lake, and generally wet; while our mid-summers and autumns are hot and dry—the sun acting fiercely upon foliage and fruit, and upon our black, permeable soil, producing premature maturity in late fruits, while the previous condition retards those of earlier habits. In the southern part of the State, the winter apples are very liable to the black rot "spots," &c.; but I have seen very little of this here.

INSECTS.—The Borer is rather troublesome near the timber, in all parts of our State. He is native, and is found in the thorn, and many other native trees. I have seldom seen the marks of this insect nearer than 18 inches above the ground; and have *never* seen him "at, or near the collar of the tree." Ours may be a different species. We find from one to four in each mark—generally two or three. He never enters the wood until the second year, and I think comes out during the third and fourth summers. The Borer is not

plentiful except near the timber. We always endeavor to cut him out before he has time to bury himself in the wood. He is easily destroyed.

We have a few Canker Worms—imported ones, I think, as I have never noticed them except on imported trees. And we have an abundance of the small, native Catterpillar; and I have seen a few nests of the large ones, on imported trees. The Bark Worm is found on most eastern trees, especially those that produce inordinate crops of fruit. I have not observed this insect on thrifty, native trees. The Green Aphides are very troublesome. Last year these pests choaked the mid-summer growth of seedling apples, so as to make budding impracticable. I have seen none to speak of this year, except on my tender rows.

Some years ago, apples here and south, were worked on sprouts and sections of the roots at large—and often, *old* seedlings—now, on the entire young seedling plant. There is much more budding than grafting done—at least in Northern Illinois. Nursery trees south, and in the middle of the State, make an astonishing growth. Here, the early growth is but little better than in New York—though the late growth is sometimes dangerously rapid and luxuriant, causing the bark to burst in winter, and subjecting them to the risk of winterkilling altogether.

In speaking of the “Fulton Apple,” one of the best Illinois seedlings, Mr. Harkness says he measured the original tree (in the orchard of Elijah Cappe, Esq., near Canton) when 19 years old, and it gave 36 1-2 inches in circumference, 3 feet from the ground; 28 feet across the top, and 25 feet high. It had borne large crops for ten years in succession. The same gentleman says, in a letter just received:—“I can now take at least ten bushels of fruit from trees, which in the spring of 1840 were mere switches, and have produced their entire crop since that time.”

We commenced our orchard eight years ago last May. We had a few seedlings before, and my brother some Hoosier trees planted out in 1835, (which, by the way, have never borne much,) and we had from a Kenick Codlin, six bushels of apples the sixth year, and about the same quantity from a Poughkeepsie Russet. We purchased our trees of Col. B. Hodge, of Buffalo, and they were of the ordinary nursery sizes. Some of these trees have borne every year since the second after planting. Those that never fail are the Kenwick Codlin, Summer Rambo, Hawthornden, Pound Sweeting, Sapson, Black Apple, &c. These instances are sufficient to show the productiveness of the apple tree in Illinois.

In planting our orchard trees, we dug holes 4 or 5 feet across and 18 inches deep, at least; we mixed in a little manure and refilled the holes—planting near the surface so as to cover the roots in their natural position, and within the influences of light, heat, air, and moisture. We keep the ground in good condition as to cultivation and manure, wash the trees with soft soap and waters, and destroy most of the insects, &c., but otherwise leave them to nature—no “hand saw” or “Jack knife” ever mutilating their luxuriant and beautiful heads.

PEARS.

Few pear trees were planted in Illinois until the last three or four years. Those that have shown fruit promise very well. My White Doyenne’s, the last year, were truly delicious. One tree but seven years from the nursery, produced near a bushel of large, perfectly fair, and very excellent fruit; and it bore perhaps a peck or more the preceding season. A Stephen’s Genesee, Easter Buerre, and a few others of doubtful names, have borne well,—and except one, which I take to be a “Mouse Jean,” were good. My Dwarfs have not yet fruited; but in Chicago some have produced well, especially a Bartlett in the garden of I. T. Seammon, Esq.

Pears are apt to make too much wood here, late in the summer. Many of

mine, in the orchard that had made great growth, were winter-killed down to the snow. The trunk being black and dead, the branches green, and the foliage opening well, when they were discovered and amputated below the line of demarkation, and a few of them have sent up a fine shoot from above the bud.

I have twice seen what I presumed to be "frozen sap blight," consequent on late growth. I carefully removed the diseased bark, in May, and covered the wound. All the trees recovered, and two of them have borne fruit. I think the affection is not uncommon here, but may in general be avoided.

I have never seen what is known as "Insect Blight," or "Fire Blight," or—par excellence—"Pear Tree Blight," though the affection is said to be well known far south of us, and possibly west near the Mississippi. A letter from R. Montague, addressed to Mr. Miller, would seem to favor this idea. Mr. Montague says, that "of ninety-six pears in my orchard, all are dead or dying from blight." He is in latitude 42 deg. 30 min., and says that many of his "apple trees are dead from the cold of last winter;" I therefore conclude that his pears are *winter-killed*, not "blighted." But I will not dwell on this oprobrium of our science now; suffice it to say, that I believe we are in the habit of confounding several distinct diseases, of different origin, and requiring different treatment—both preventive and curative—under this dreaded name of "Blight." The one disease, or phase of the disease, most deprecated may be "epidemic," like the potato rot and the cholera, and may possibly like these disappear to return again after an interval (God send it be a long one); or it may be "endemic," and find its origin in a deficiency of some necessary principle, or in the excess of some noxious one, entirely local. The remedy will yet be discovered. We cannot consent to risk even the partial abandonment of the most popular and delicious fruit in the catalogue; and we are approximating so near to a reasonable certainty in Agricultural, and especially Horticultural science, that we shall for very shame, be compelled to investigate and determine this vexed question.

During the last summer our seedling pears were for the first time badly affected with "Leaf Blight." We received them from the East, and they had suffered from the disease there. This summer our own seedlings, as well as some healthy ones from Canada, lost their foliage from the 20th July to the 10th of August. A few put out new terminal leaves, but the most of them are now, September 1st, entirely naked. Can this disease be contagious? I should think not; and yet this has a sensible leaning that way. The soil on which our seeds were planted was worked two feet deep, and was sufficiently moist. We syringed with solution of sulphate of iron, but without benefit.

Pear trees of choice varieties are in great demand in our State, and will soon be abundant if we can rear stocks. A few avaricious or ignorant nurserymen have used *sprouts*,—or worse still, the *apple* as stocks, to the evident damage of their reputation, and the great disappointment of many who deserved better treatment at the hands of nurserymen. But there are quacks in all professions, and true men sometimes humbug themselves, and very innocently cheat their best customers.

But, Gentlemen, for the eradication of all false notions, and the prevention of error, we look to you, and the action of National Fruit Conventions. We are all a very little given to credulity, and we *must* believe each other. And a book before the eye was never yet equal to "the subject" in hand, or under the dissecting knife of the operator.

THE PEACH.

Next to the apple, the peach from the ease with which it is produced from seed, and its early fruitfulness, has been most extensively cultivated throughout the West. Few however are found in our markets except seedlings, and

some seasons these have been abundant and really excellent,—and yet have never sold so far as I know, for less than \$1 50 to \$2 50 per bushel in the orchard, and often at from \$3 50 to \$4 00 when taken to market. Mr. Schenk (eighteen miles north west of The Grove) has had four or five crops in the last nine years, *two* of them very large. One year (1847?) it was in proof in court that the value of \$2,000 was sold from this orchard; and several others in this region have sold from \$500 to \$1,000 worth in a season.

I think that about here we get one full crop in three years, on an average,—and perhaps always a few specimens in the intermediate years. Further south and in the middle of the state, they do much better,—say, *three crops in five years*.

And yet, were it not that the peach bears young—sometimes the second, and often the third year—we should be discouraged; for from much observation, I conclude that the average age of the peach, heretofore, has not been over six or seven years in northern Illinois; not dying from premature old age, but like the cherry, from the effects of our soil and climate, and naturally faulty cultivation. Of perhaps one hundred trees planted in my orchard between 1836 and 1845, but *one*, and that my *oldest seedling*, is now alive. all my worked ones dead, over three years from “bud,” and at least half of the younger ones.

The last winter was very hard on the peach; nearly all those “in the bud” were killed in some nurseries, and few of any age escaped where cultivation had been high, or the lands deep and rich. Ours that survived, were all on our poorest and driest soil, and with a northern or western aspect, and received *judicious* cultivation.

The peach will not bear liberal culture here, and will not *long* survive if sparsely planted on black deep soil with a *southern* exposure. We now select the highest elevations, and the least sunny aspect, and plant but eight feet apart “in quincanx,” raise a crop of early potatoes perhaps the first year, and then no crop but peaches. A neighbor whose peach orchard is on a high white oak “clay barren,” not cultivated, has always had some fine fruit, and lost very few trees last winter.

I have found but *one* “peach grub” in my native trees. We find a few in imported trees which we are very careful to destroy. I have heard of a few *doubtful* cases of “yellows” far south. The “curl” of the leaf is very common in June. Our worst affection is the “gum.” This, I think, is something like “frozen sap blight” in the pear. A sort of *gangrene*, or rather “*erysipelas*,” caused by sudden alternations of cold and heat, acting upon a too luxuriant and immature growth. We usually pare out the gangrenous bark, and cover the wound with clay or wax; but they generally die in a year or two at most, when badly affected.

We now cultivate our peach trees (after the first year) during the spring and first summer month only, and give them a northern or western aspect, when practicable. Trees thus situated live thrice as long as those receiving a reverse treatment. We prune but little,—merely “shortening in” occasionally, and removing dead wood. The varieties cultivated are the same as those in Ohio and Western New York, though a few native sorts of promise have been introduced.

THE PLUM.

The plum tree succeeds to admiration on our deep prairie soils, and “sets” enormous crops of fruit. But alas! the curculio makes sad havoc, and often leaves us scarce a single unmarked specimen. Most of our best soils are light “sandy loam” and this is the proper home of this humpbacked “little Turk,” where he winters unharmed, and breeds and multiplies to an extent which threatens the ultimate abandonment of this and the other beautiful and delicious fruits of its class, unless a more practicable remedy than any now

attempted, should be discovered. The Curculio, like the Apple Borer, is native here, and he finds the nidus for his young in the oceans of native plums every where indigenous, and unfortunately, every where preserved, or introduced into the fields, for their cheap and tolerable fruit.

I had flattered myself, that from the fact that my choice plums in the immediate vicinity of my Groves of wild ones, suffered most from the Curculio, that this depredator was not inclined to emigration; and that our prairie orchards, distant from his native home, might escape his ravages. But I fear not. I have this summer seen a fine young plum orchard (near half a mile from the timber), the trees for the first time covered with swelling fruit, and so far as I could perceive, every one bearing the crescent mark of the inevitable destroyer.

I have noticed the fact heretofore reiterated by plum farriers, that in our heavy clay soils the wild plum comes to perfection, while in the light soils all are dropped. By selecting the clay soils, *paving* the light ones, and making "hog pastures" where we are too poor to pave, and shaking and hand picking, when we have but few trees, *after* the destruction of the native trees, we *may* have a sufficiency of choice plums; but with our present knowledge, not otherwise.

My plum trees have borne since the fourth year from the nursery. The fruit is seldom injured by the frost, and one year we had a very large crop of perfect plums,—and last season a good crop, on trees most remote from the Grove of wild ones. Further south, I learn that few escape the Curculio, and that its cultivation is nearly abandoned in some places.

THE BLACK KNOTS.—The wild plums and cherries are often much disfigured, and sometimes destroyed by this affection; and I have observed that it is beginning to attack the blue and purple sorts in the orchard. We practice excision in this disease, (which is not only hereditary but may be propagated by contact and perhaps contiguity,) and we are trying the effect of arsenic and corrosive sublimate as topical applications, and as alteratives applied in a very *diluted state* to the roots and foliage. Our experience is not enough to determine the safety or value of this treatment, and we would not advise it except in "desperate cases," until after further and more successful trial.

We do not believe that this cutaneous disease is of insect origin, though we have frequently found grubs in the warts, which had evidently entered *after* their formation.

For stocks, on which to work the finer plums, we are now testing a very free growing, native sub-variety, of the Prunes Americano, with large yellowish fruit, and rich semi-fleshy pulp. In spite of the Curculio, plum trees are in great demand here, and owing to the high rates East, importations have been insufficient. But we shall soon have a supply of our own creation.

OF CHERRIES.

The cherry with us has thus far been the most uncertain of all fruits extensively cultivated. The whole state is liberally supplied with varieties of the MORELLO, and the Kentish cherry disseminated almost entirely in the shape of suckers. These are all hardy, and make a rapid and handsome growth, but are in general unproductive and worthless.

The class of Duke Cherries is, comparatively, tolerably hardy with us, and they are usually good bearers, and the fruit excellent. The Heart and Big-garreau cherries thrive well in the nursery, bear early, and excite hopes of a rich future, which some six or eight years at most, show to be utterly illusory. The tree is some times, to all appearance, merely "*winter-killed*;" at others, it dies gradually during summer, from extensive ulcerations or "sloughs" of the bark, on the south and most sides of the trunk, and large exposed branches; but the greater part of these trees die suddenly, during the month of June, from a malady which commences apparently in the inner bark of the

trunk—the branches and roots being healthy—the latter sending up healthy suckers, and the former making good scions when cut in season. The greater part of my trees have died soon after showing their first flowers in the orchard—the foliage often withering as completely and suddenly as though the tree were divided from its root.

In all these cases, even when there is but little external sign of disease, the inner bark will be found discolored and gangrenous—much the same as in the “frozen sap blight,” with which we think it identical.

We can do nothing except in the way of preventive; and I am inclined to believe that the proper preventive is the one which best enables the tree to withstand the effect of our extremes, and sudden alternations of heat and cold; and to do this, we must retard and equalize the growth, and protect the susceptible trunk of the growing tree. For this, I have found low heads, a poor dry soil, with early cultivation, as with the peach in the nursery; and if removed to a better soil in the orchard or garden, permitting a sod to form, and merely “forking” or hoeing a small circle in the spring only.

So far as we know, nature never voluntarily puts her subjects in “corsets,” this being a civilized barbarism of “reasoning” beings; still there may be much truth in the notion, and much good sense in the practice of Professor Turner and others, who advise stripping off the tough cuticle of the cherry, or dividing it by reversed spiral incisions extending from the branches to the ground.

THE QUINCE.

The quince is as much at home in our deep rich prairie soils, as the apple. We manure highly, and give a little salt early in the spring or late in the autumn. A friend of ours has had some very large crops of the Orange Quince. This tree sometimes winter-kills, and is very obnoxious to attacks of the Borer.

NECTARINES AND APRICOTS.

These fruits have scarcely been proved here. We lost the most of our trees the last winter. Some friends have had better luck with their trees; but the *Cureulio* stings all the fruit.

THE VINE.

Native grapes are every where abundant and prolific, through this entire region, “wherever water runs or trees grow.” Besides the common “frost grape” of the East, we have some excellent native varieties, producing beautiful clusters of large rich berries. I have two or three of these varieties from near the “calumet,” but which have not yet fruited in my garden. The principal kinds cultivated here are the Isabella and Catawba. In the middle of the State they cultivate an excellent variety called the “Rhenish,” supposed to be of European origin, though doubtful I think; for I have never seen or heard of a well authenticated case, where a strictly foreign grape has produced like this, in the open border in this country.

Our best grapes are all *native* ones, and foreign varieties have universally failed. The Catawba grape has appeared less hardy here than the Isabella, and both are occasionally winter-killed; and the crop sometimes fails from late spring frosts—occasionally ruined by the mildew. Farther south, this last is their chief enemy, though I have heard of plague from the Rose bug. Still I think the grape crop nearly as sure as the apple.

GOOSEBERRIES.

The native gooseberry succeeds to admiration, and is rendered larger and finer by cultivation; but, out of Chicago, I have seen few fine gooseberries of the cultivated sorts—the Mildew ruining the entire crop, which always promises well until attacked by this disease. In the city of Chicago, I have

annually seen the largest and finest crops of perfect fruit, grown on their semi-alluvial *sandy* soil; and am told that this fruit succeeds all along the Lake shore; but every where from the interior I have received the most discouraging accounts of Mildew. Can the Lake winds make this difference? Or is it the soil?

RASPBERRIES

Do well where the land is moist, rich, and partially shaded. Unless protected, some of the sorts are apt to winter-kill. Native sorts are found; the common black producing good crops; the red, so far as I have seen, is not productive. The BLACKBERRY is found every where in the timber, and bears finely. WHORTLEBERRIES, in variety; CRANBERRIES, &c., are abundant and productive.

STRAWBERRIES

Are met with in the open prairie, along the borders of the timber, and on the edges of "sloughs" and "saggs," where the soil is deep and moist,—and the fruit is often large and fine, and was formerly abundant. Cultivation, the feeding of cattle, &c., and especially untimely fires, are destroying the native fruits; and we are just beginning to experiment with cultivated varieties, and with glorious success. Very fine specimens of many choice sorts have been shown at our June Fairs in Chicago, and that market has been reasonably supplied at fair prices.

CURRANTS

Are here, as every where in the same latitude, hardy, and abundant and uniform bearers. I do not remember that there has ever been a failure of this useful and cheap berry. Plenty of manure, and deep and good cultivation render all the varieties large and fine; neglect will reduce the finest sorts to a level with the poorest.

I had intended to attempt a creditable Report from our young and beautiful Prairie State; but I have delayed it for promised information, until the "sickly season" is upon us; and I have written by snatches, when fatigued in body and mind by my hard duties of a "Country Doctor." I have had neither time nor inclination to select my words, or to arrange or revise my matter. My facts I believe to be in the main, truthful, and the matter must go as it is, hoping that another year may be more prolific in statistics, and that my successors may have more ability, and more leisure; more love for the subject, more enthusiasm, few can possess.

Before closing this paper, I must be indulged in a few remarks on a particular "hobby" of mine, viz:

THE PROPHYLACTIC AND CURATIVE PROPERTIES OF RIPE FRUITS.

It has long been known to a few observing men,—and now and then a writer has glanced at the fact,—that fruits in season possess remedial virtues. Ripe grapes have cured epidemic dysentery. In vine countries, they speak familiarly of the "grape cure." Physicians have occasionally ventured to recommend the use of "cooling acid fruits;" and the earliest writers have directed the sugary ones, as "figs," for food in convalescence. But it is known to all that many are prejudiced against fruits, and consider them as very questionable *luxuries* at the best. And it must be admitted that they have often proved mischievous, especially when immature, and taken by stealth, or in too large quantities, when but occasionally accessible.

Thus, in 99 cases out every hundred, it will be found that the *abuse*, and not the free use of fruits, has produced the mischief. Good fruits are always grateful,—even to the sickly or pallid appetite—and in the young, and the

healthy, its promising appearance, or its delicious aroma, often excites the most ungovernable appetite, and they gorge themselves—and suffer therefrom—no worse than from a surfeit of fish, flesh, or vegetables, perhaps—but still enough to aid in perpetuating the vulgar error, that the unrestricted use of fruits is dangerous. Who ever heard of the children of men who provide seasonable fruits in abundance,—and permit their habitual use,—eating too much? or becoming sick therefrom? I never did. I have had a little experience in this matter—and I have taken pains to collect information, and I *know* that the families where fruit is most plentiful, and good, and most highly prized, as an article of DAILY FOOD—are most free from disease of all kinds, and more especially from *fevers* and “*bowel complaints*.”

I have theories to account for this—but I love not theorizing—and will not inflict my crude notions on you at this time—I merely state the grave facts, and defy contradiction. I may add, however, that most fruits aid digestion—some directly—some indirectly by restraining the appetite for more gross and stimulating food and condiments—by keeping the “*bowels soluble*”—in other words acting as mild “*laxatives*,” &c. &c. The juicy ones act as “*diluents*,” and all as “*diuretics*”—the free acids neutralizing or rendering soluble the earthy matters in the blood, and carrying them off rapidly through the natural channels.

All this you can understand and appreciate. But let us glance at another phase of this universal remedy. It is the best, the cheapest, and the least exceptionable cure for INTEMPERANCE. It not only lessens the desire for alcoholic drinks, but supplies their place, and removes their effects.

EVE was tempted by an “*APPLE*.” A good God has given to us the object of “*the primal sin*,” as a great blessing. If disease and death came from the eating of “*the forbidden fruit*”—health and length of days may be found in the assiduous cultivation and regulated enjoyment of that from which the interdiction of the Creator has been taken, and which his open hand has lavishly scattered over the face of this fair earth.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of respect and esteem for you individually—and gratitude for the honor conferred upon me in this appointment—most sincerely

Your friend and humble servant,

JOHN A. KENNICOTT, OF THE GROVE,
Chairman of the Com. for Illinois.

REPORT

OF DR. HERMAN WENDELL, OF ALBANY, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

In compliance with the second rule of instructions to State Committees, which prescribes, "that *each* member of a committee, shall collect all the information in his power, as to the value of various fruits, in his particular section of State, and also as to the value of new seedling varieties," the undersigned, residing in the city of Albany, begs leave to report, that he has confined his observations mainly to the productions of the vicinity of that city, but occasionally, to the character of particular varieties from other parts of the State, which will be mentioned when treating of such varieties. When writing of well known fruits, it is deemed unnecessary to describe them minutely, because reference can always be made to standard works and consequently it is only done when varieties of recent introduction or seedlings are under consideration.

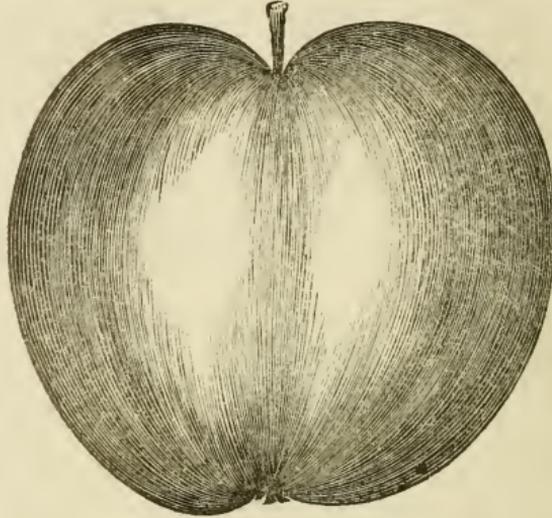
APPLES.

The specimens of this fruit which have been examined were grown at Greenbush in Rensselaer County on a gravelly loam : at Niskayuna, about eight miles north of the city, in a sandy loam ; at my own place about a mile west of the city on a sandy loam with an admixture of clay, well supplied with lime, ashes, and stable manure—and also in a few instances from Columbia County, near Kinderhook, where the soil is gravelly loam.

In all these several localities I find that the Yellow Harvest—Sweet Bough—Early Strawberry—Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, Yellow and Green Newtown Pippins, R. Island Greening, Vandervere, Swaar, Esopus Spitzenburgh, Fall Pippin, Dominic, Westfield Seeknofurther, Yellow Bellefleur, thrive and bear large crops of fair fruit, and are not troubled with diseases of any kind ; the same is the fact at my own place—and some others in the vicinity of this city, where the soil is of ~~finer~~ character,—with the Gravenstein, Ranbo, Holland Pippin, Herefordshire Permain, Ladies' Sweeting and Lady Apple. My attention has been called to the Norton's Melon Apple, a delicious Winter variety which originated in Western New York, in the vicinity where that valuable and favorite variety the Northern Spy, was first discovered ; when first disseminated, the Norton's Melon was said to be an Autumn and early Winter fruit ; but specimens retaining their pristine appearance, juiciness, flavour and consistence, kept without extra care, were eaten and examined by myself, about the middle of February last, and the same has been done by several persons in Rochester, which proves the variety to be a good keeper, and consequently a more valuable one for general dissemination than it was first supposed. A full description, with an outline, will be found in the transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society for 1848, to which I refer the Convention ; also to the Wagener Apple, which originated in Penn Yan, Yates County, New York. This was also until recently thought to be an early winter variety ; but the experience of several seasons, prove it to be without extra trouble, a late keeper, and one which retains its juiciness and good character until March and April. A full description, together with a beautiful coloured engraving, and an outline will also be found in the same volume of the transactions of the New York State Society. I will only add in relation to it, that all within the description referred to can be strictly relied upon, and that in my opinion it fully merits the praises bestowed upon it by the Committee of that Society. Also, to a new seedling apple to which

I have given the name of Kingsley apple. This variety originated on the farm of a Mr. Kingsley, in Pittsford, Monroe County in this State, and as it comes up to the standard required by the Pomological rules adopted by the Convention for the guidance of its Committees, I annex an outline, and full description of the fruit.

KINGSLEY APPLE.



SIZE—Medium, being usually about two and an half inches broad and two and a quarter in depth.

FORM—Nearly globular, but slightly inclining to an oval.

EXTERIOR COLOUR—On a dark yellowish ground, pinkish red stripes and splashes diverge in every direction from the stem end of the fruit, while the calyx end is surrounded with light russet, and the exposed side nearly covered with irregular patches of pinkish red, profusely sprinkled with whitish dots.

TEXTURE—Fine grained, and melting.

FLAVOR—Of a peculiarly rich, pleasant sub-acid, and supplied with an unusual quantity of delicious juice.

CORE—Of medium size, and open.

SEEDS—Small, of dark brown colour, and few in number.

STEM—Short, not quite half an inch in length, slender and inserted in a regular cavity.

EYE—Small, closed, and set in a shallow basin.

GROWTH—The tree is moderate in its growth, erect in its habit, hardy, and a profuse and early bearer—thirty bushels of fruit were gathered from the original tree in the autumn of 1848; it is growing in a pasture lot, uncared for and neglected.

SEASON—From November until July.

REMARKS—The fruit above described has a peculiarly rich and agreeable flavour, an unusual supply of delicious juice, and is in eating order at a season of the year without extra care, when very few other varieties are in good condition. The specimens from which the above description was written, were eaten on the tenth of June, and were as fresh and free from defect as when taken from the tree. This alone would entitle it to consideration, but taken in connection with its other qualities, renders it well worthy of recommendation and name. The original tree is now growing in Pittsford; it is

owned by Dr. Moses Long, who recently purchased the farm on which it stands, and to whom I am indebted for the above information in relation to its history, as well as for the fruit from which I have written the description. My attention has also been directed to several other varieties of seedlings, none of which, without further information and trial, do I consider worthy of especial notice. Among those included in this notice, are the Stannard, grown by Col. Hodge of Buffalo; a seedling grown by Thomas R. Peck, of West Bloomfield, Ontario Country; a seedling resembling somewhat the Yellow Bellefleur, said to be a long keeper, received from George Bristol Esq., of Oneida County; a seedling from Henry Snyder of Columbia County; a seedling from Jacob Teller of Rensselaer County; one from J. D. Coe Esq., of Seneca County; and one from DeRuyter, Madison County, called there the Enos apple.

PEARS.

My attention to Pears has been confined principally to those grown by myself on a sandy loam. I have a very large collection, many of them in full bearing; but a great number too young to enable me to judge of their qualities, as I consider it necessary in order to enable us to form a correct opinion of the character of a variety, that the tree have age sufficient to give it vigor of constitution. The blight—that seriously felt destroyer of the Pear, in nearly all regions of our country—is as prevalent in the vicinity of Albany, as in any other section of the State, and notwithstanding some gentlemen have fancied that they had discovered that certain varieties were more exempt from its influences than others, I cannot bring myself to agree with them, because, having been a close observer of the disease for several years past, in various sections of the State, I have seen it in all its virulence, destroying numbers of those supposed to be exempt, while those presumed, from their foreign origin, enervated constitution, or other cause, to be peculiarly liable to its attacks were spared when growing in the same gardens or orchards. The cause of the disease seems to be as much a matter of dispute, and discussion now, as it was years since; scarcely two growers agree in their opinions in relation to it. I shall therefore take up no time in its discussion, but must be indulged in being allowed to recommend a course to cultivators, which from analogical reasoning, seems to be rational and sound, and since the adoption of which whether from the plan pursued, or accident—I do not pretend to decide—I have certainly suffered very little comparatively to what I did previous. It is a settled and an undisputed fact, that persons as well as animals, when enervated in constitution from any cause, are more liable to the attacks of epidemic or contagious diseases than those not so circumstanced. Why may it not be the same with trees? Thinking that I had discovered blight to be either contagious or epidemic, (which, I shall not as yet say)—from the fact, that when a tree was attacked, others in its immediate vicinity were apt to be affected in a similar manner, I determined to try what the application of crude iron filings, to and among the roots, both when planting out, and afterwards, would effect. Iron I knew to be a tonic, and that when applied in the form of filings or turnings it could not injure, because it becomes oxidised gradually, and consequently but a given quantity would be taken into the circulation of the tree; therefore, I applied it, and now while trees of neighbors are badly affected with the disease, mine suffer but slightly. I of course do not depend upon this remedy; but the moment a tree is discovered to be attacked, that moment I amputate the limb far below the least appearance of disease. I am also careful that the blade of the knife is perfectly clean; and that it has none of the sap of a diseased tree adhering to it; because I have known many valuable trees destroyed by having been inoculated in this manner with the vitiated sap of a diseased

tree. The well known, and already described varieties which flourish, bear well, and are not attacked by disease,—except the blight—in the vicinity of this city, are the Citron des Carmes, the Bloodgood, the Rostiezer—(the most delicious summer variety with which I am acquainted)—the Williams' Bonchretien, the Flemish Beauty, the Beurre Bose, the Doyenne Gris, the Muscadine, the Beurre Diel, the Duchess D'Angouleme, the Seckel, the Gansel's Bergamot, the Beurre de Capiaumont, the Bleeker's Meadow, the Inconnue Van Mons, the Winter Nelis, the Beurre Gris D'Hiver Noveau,—a very valuable variety, in eating about January; the Louise Bonne de Jersey, on Pear or Quince, equally well, and the Urbaniste. A large number of other less known varieties have borne in my collection on young trees, and promise to be valuable additions; but before recommending them I would prefer a few more seasons' experience; among them are Doyenne D'Ete, a beautiful and delicious early variety, ripe on the sixth of August this year—1849—the St. Dorothee an autumn variety—the Beurre Mortefontaine, an autumn variety, the Belle et Bonne de Hee, an autumn variety, the Beurre Goubatt, an autumn variety and great bearer, Leon Le Clere Van Mons—a large and beautiful variety—the Comte de Lamy an autumn variety, and several others; a number of which were received by me with strong recommendations are now under trial; several I apprehend will be discarded for want of merit when more fully known. I have seen sufficient to induce me to cease cultivating the Easter Beurre—on Pear roots,—on Quince it is said to be better, the Beurre Cadette or Beauchamp, the Beurre de Louvain, the Beurre Knox, the Julienne, the Doyenne Musque, and Nouvelle Mabile. The White Doyenne in most collections in the vicinity of Albany, is nearly worthless, while in some it is as beautiful and valuable as in its palmiest days. The cause of this difference of character is probably owing to some deficiency in the soil; what that is, must be discovered either by analysis or experiment—I am at present engaged in various experiments to test the matter, and if successful in recovering trees on which the fruit borne, has been diseased, I will communicate the fact in a future paper.

STEVENS' GENESEE PEAR.

I embrace the present opportunity to correct an error in relation to the history of this valuable variety, into which the Fruit Committee, of the New York State Agricultural Society, were led during the winter of 1847, by a gentleman who professed himself familiar with the history of the fruit; and which is introduced in their report of that year, as well as published in the transactions of the society. The Stevens' Genesee Pear originated on the farm of Mr. Francis Stevens, of Lima, Livingston County, New York, and was introduced to public notice by Mr. Guernsey, of Pittsford, Monroe County, who gave it the name it now bears. A full history of it may be found in one of the early volumes—the 5th I think—of the Genesee Farmer, which may be relied upon as being strictly accurate, and to which I beg leave to refer the reader.

PLUMS.

The vicinity of Albany, having long been known as a region of the State in which plum trees have grown and bore fruit in great perfection, I may be expected to treat more voluminously of them than of some others. The soil apparently best adapted to the well doing of this tree and fruit, being that which contains in it a large proportion of argillaceous matter; and as nearly every locality in the immediate vicinity of the city, is well supplied with that ingredient, the reason of the success in the cultivation is very obvious. All varieties of hardy constitution grow well, and bear abundantly, notwithstand-

ing that pest to plum cultivators—the *Curculio*, destroys every year a large proportion of the crop. Various remedies have been recommended for the protection of young fruit from its attacks. I would therefore recommend the growers to try such as they consider most rational, and communicate the result of their experiments to the public, through the Horticultural journals of the country. Plum trees are also with us liable to the Canker or Black Wart; the poorer varieties and those of dark colour, are thought to be most apt to be affected with it. Planting on well drained lands, thorough cultivation around the trees, and manuring them with lime, ashes, and a small quantity of salt, will by the tonic effect induced, render them more likely to escape the disease than if left to themselves; but if the trees are attacked, notwithstanding this course be pursued, free amputation of diseased limbs must be resorted to. The varieties which are cultivated, hardy, and bear abundantly are the Drop D'or, Reine Claude, Washington, Red Magnum Bonum, White Magnum Bonum, Yellow Egg, Virgin, Coe's Golden Drop, Nectarine, Prince's Imperial Gage, Lombard, Lawrence's Gage, Bleecker's Gage, Deniston's Red, Albany Beauty, Mulberry, Buel's Favourite, Jefferson, Peter's Large Yellow, Columbia, Schenectady Catherine—a delicious purple plum equal to Reine Claude—fully described in volume 13th of Hovey's magazine, and copied therefrom into the volume for 1847, of our State Agricultural transactions,—Ickworth's Imperatrice, Coe's Late Red, Prune D'Agen for Prunes, Purple Favorite, Red Gage and a few others. The Prune Peche, or Peach Plum, is not sufficiently hardy to withstand our winters, as is the case with the Orange, the River's Seedling—so highly recommended by Rivers in a recent number of the Horticulturist—the Roe's Autumn Gage, the Bingham, the Fotheringham, the Royal Hative, and Louis of Orleans. The Waterloo, the King of Plums, and the first importation of Reine Claude de Bavay, prove to be Coe's Golden Drop. This was predicted by Mr. Rivers, in relation to the latter, as some mistake had occurred with it by ignorant continental nurserymen; the second importation may be correct, and meet our expectations; it is now under trial.

GUTHRIE'S APRICOT PLUM,—a beautiful variety has fruited for the first time in Albany this season—1849—Its size varies from medium to large; its FORM is oval, but slightly flattened at either end; its EXTERIOR COLOUR is of a rich lemon yellow, with fine crimson dots around the stem, and on the exposed side; its TEXTURE is rather firm, but juicy and rich. The COLOUR of its flesh is yellow; its FLAVOR is of an apricot character; its STONE is small and adherent to the flesh; its stem is inserted in a narrow but deep depression. The colour of the young wood is light greenish red; its growth upright and quite thrifty; its season of ripening, from the 25th of August to the 1st of September. It originated from seed planted by Guthrie of Scotland, and as it proves to be hardy and prolific, and is also a handsome fruit, it may be considered by some, a desirable acquisition; although its season of ripening is the same as many of the finer American seedlings, which far surpass it in size and deliciousness, as well as lusciousness of texture and juice. I myself do not consider it worthy of general dissemination; notwithstanding it well deserves a place in the amateur's collection. There are a large number of seedlings, possessing more or less excellence; some of them but very little inferior to many of the well known varieties above named—growing in the vicinity of the city; but as the standard of excellence, which new varieties must attain in order to entitle them to name or notice is, that they are superior in some particular to any now under cultivation; and as none of them come fully up to that high requirement, I cannot give them further attention.

CHERRIES.

Nearly all the finer and well known varieties of the cherry are grown by cultivators in the vicinity of Albany ; it, as well here as in other places, flourishes and bears best when grown in well drained, warm, deep, and rich gravelly loam. As the varieties grown are all described in Pomological works, and to which reference can be made, I will merely name those which bear fine crops and are the best fruits, viz : May Duke, Early White Heart, Belle de Choisy, Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Graftion or Yellow Spanish, Elton, Elkhorn or Tradescants, Black, Bigarreau Couleur de Chair, Napoleon Bigarreau, Holland Bigarreau, Downer's Late Red, Late Duke, Waterloo, and Wendell's Mottled Bigarreau, a new, large, delicious and late variety, recently grown from seed by myself ; and which is fully described in the first volume of the Horticulturist, and the thirteenth volume of Hoveys' Magazine. A large number of other foreign, as well as native varieties are under cultivation, but a few years must elapse before their characters can be fully tested.

PEACHES.

To the cultivation of the peach, little attention is paid in this vicinity, as owing to the vicissitudes of our winters, they are an uncertain crop, and liable to destruction. I therefore do not consider it worth my while to devote any time to their consideration.

APRICOTS.

I have tried numerous varieties of this fruit, and found none of them except the Breda, able to withstand many of our winters ; it does however, and I would recommend its cultivation to growers of fruit, as it is a delicious, as well as beautiful variety, though small in size.

NECTARINES.

The same must be said in relation to this fruit, that I have said of the peach, as it is only in protected enclosures that they appear to do well ; in such situations I would recommend the Boston and Downton, as varieties which will not disappoint growers.

CURRANTS.

Several new varieties of the Currant, have been introduced to the attention of cultivators, within a few years past, viz : the Knight's Sweet Red, of a beautiful red colour, with large clusters and berries, and much more palatable than any other of the red varieties ; the Cherry Currant, having large and beautiful berries, but more acid than the above. The Victoria, a red variety coming later to maturity than either of the above, and also more acid. The White Grape, of a greenish white colour, with long branches, and large berries of the flavor of the Old White Dutch ; a desirable variety. The above new varieties, together with Black Naples—a large and very fine black variety,—the Old Red Dutch, and the White Dutch, are grown in great perfection in our whole vicinity.

RASPBERRIES.

The Raspberry requires slight protection, in order that it may withstand our variable winters ; with such care, and proper cultivation, it succeeds admirably. The best varieties grown are the Fastoff, the Franconia, and the White Antwerp ; other varieties, as the Red Antwerp, the Victoria, the Beehive, and May's Giant, are grown to some extent ; but are in my opinion,

inferior to the above. The Ohio ever-bearing is a variety worthy of cultivation, by the amateur; the berry is of medium size, of bluish colour and pleasant flavor.

GOOSEBERRIES.

The Gooseberry suffers severely in some gardens, with blight or mildew; various of the recommended remedies have been tried with more or less of success; but that course in their management, which is most successful is to dig, trench, and manure the earth deep, before setting out the plants; and then covering the earth around and under them with salt meadow hay. This course keeps the roots cool, allows them to penetrate deeply into the earth; gives the plant vigor to withstand disease, and the saline atmosphere, which surrounds the bushes, probably destroys the germ of the insect, which is by some supposed to cause the mildew. A large number of varieties are grown in this vicinity: among the best of which are Sheba Queen, Lady of the Manor, Lord Creve, Golden Walnut, White Eagle, Edward's Jolly Tar, and Woodward's Whitesmith.

STRAWBERRIES.

This fruit is grown extensively in the vicinity of Albany. The varieties mostly cultivated for market are the Hovey's seedling and the Virginia Scarlet. Nearly all the other valuable, or supposed to be valuable varieties, are grown by different individuals, and as the peculiarity of flavor in the various varieties is about as different as is the tastes of different persons, most of them have their several advocates. I shall not attempt to describe, or even mention the names of the varieties grown, but will only allude to one or two of which much has been said. The Burr's New Pine has fruited in Albany two seasons; it has proved to be hardy, very prolific, and a very delicious variety. The other seedlings of Mr. Burr, possess more or less of merit, but the above is the best. The Aberdeen Beehive has fruited this season—1849—in three collections; it is prolific when grown in single hills; but not more so than many others; the berry is of medium size, of very good flavor; but taken as a whole, when compared with many other varieties, is unworthy of extensive cultivation. It is said to be valuable as a forcing variety; but of this I have had no experience.

GRAPES.

The only Grapes cultivated to any extent without the protection of a Grapery, are the Isabella and Catawba; the first being the earliest is most certain to mature its fruit; but in order to insure a crop in other situations than the sheltered enclosures of our cities, it is necessary that they be protected during the winter months.

From the different members of the Committee for the State of New York, I have received the annexed, which, by the printed instructions of the General Committee, I am directed to embody in my report. I give them in the order they have been received by me. The following is from J. W. Knevels, Esq., of Fishkill, Dutchess county:

Mr. Knevels' report being voluminous, and mostly descriptive of fruits already known, and unfortunately rather illegibly written, the Secretary has found it necessary to give only the following extracts:

Mr. KNEVELS' notes—

Patterson, a pleasant new apple from the place of that name, in this county, where it is said to have originated from the intermixture of the Pearmain and Spitzenbergh; winter, good size, red color.

Losey, large, fine apple; local name; oval, in size between Fall and Newtown Pippin; a Seedling originating here, and not much known; a good market fruit.

Verplanck *Golden Russet*, or *Reinette*, a delicious little winter apple only found within my knowledge, at Mt. Gulian, the homestead of the family of the late Judge Verplanck. I have not been able to identify it with any described sort. The tree, a very large, old one, with drooping branches. A deep yellow, with a lacerated outwork of russet on the lower half (in towards the eye end); not very juicy, and without acidity, agreeable to those who like a mealy sugary pulp.

Baldwin, a specimen received from Mr. Downing, was fine, but our own experience in growing it leads us to condemn it for general cultivation; grafts received from Mr. Manning, and inserted in old trees, 1842, have not yet shown a full crop; the fruit does not hang well, is apt to be pierced and defective, and apparently ripens too early in our latitude to attain its high qualities, or to be ranked as a late keeping spring apple. Inferior altogether to Spitzenbergh.

On the cultivation of the pear tree and the diseases applicable to it, Mr. Knevels writes as follows:—

It may be well to remark that, in my vicinity, this fruit is not cultivated by any means on so extensive a scale as many others. Few have collections and I am not aware that there is much planting going on in this line, for which several reasons may be assigned, among which are—The great length of time required to bring the pear tree into bearing; the quince as a stock for the pear not having been much tried—Secondly, The idea that other fruits are better adapted to our locality, and—Thirdly, The ravages committed by the fire blast, no doubt deter many from its cultivation.

To these a fourth may be added; most of our best and generally known pears ripen in autumn when there is a complete glut of fruit; peaches especially, being almost universally preferred when there is a choice of the two kinds.

Winter pears are not much known; at least, in their state of perfection, as the process of ripening, to which they should be submitted, requires more skill and experience, as well as attention, than our people have, as yet, attained, or are willing to bestow. I have, within a few days, witnessed a most deplorable destruction among the Pear trees in my neighborhood,—Dr. Rumsey's Collection—all occurring this winter from the *Fire-Blast*; this is a most appropriate and descriptive name for the disease, as the appearance of the affected branches is precisely that of fire having passed over them and blackened the outside. Large limbs are thus killed, and in this form of the disease cutting off the part attacked, does not seem effectual to preserve the tree. I can find no trace of insects leading me to fix on them as the authors of the mischief, (which they could not perpetrate in winter); neither can I perceive anything of that offensive odor of which the partizans of the "*Frozen Sap Theory*" speak.

A peculiar feature, and one which it is hard to account for on any theory, is the circumstance here observable—that the lower part of the branch shall be affected, as also many of the thriving plump shoots of the last summer's growth, while many of the same shoots entirely escape the infection, but of course, also finally perish, the communication with the trunk being finally cut off by the death of the main branch. This *winter phase* as here seen, resembles that of the summer in all respects, as far as I have observed, and is analogous, I presume, to the similarity of appearance which two opposite agents—Frost and Fire, respectively induce. To speak of the cause as owing to a freezing of the *Sap*, appears to me to be very superficial and unscientific; at

any rate, the summer fire-blight cannot originate from frozen Sap, and yet the two forms, summer and winter, are apparently exactly similar. If the sap be frozen so as to become actually fœtid, can it be supposed for a moment that it could carry on vegetation even to the point of leafing, flowering, and bearing fruit? And yet this is observable in branches, that in the course of a day will turn black and perish. The subject has been rendered more complicated by the hypothesis of there being three distinct diseases known by one name—Insect, Frost, and Fire blight, which allows two modes of escape from the force of every observation which does not tally with the theory assumed. If the appearance militate with the supposition that it is occasioned by the atmosphere, why it is easy to refer it to insects or frost. My impression is, that the disease known as Fire-Blast, is a unity; and if I may venture an opinion, perhaps not as yet demonstrated, I should say that the moving cause, whatever it be, operates by producing the death of the *porenchyma*, the vital part of every plant, all others being only subsidiary, and much, if not all, that we regard as vegetable being the *product* of vegetation, such as wood. Woody fibre is entirely mineral matter, peculiarly arranged by insects, and trees are according to my "Theory," *insect* structures as much as *Coral*. On this point I might speculate at great length, but will not so far wander from the subject in hand. You may however well ask "what occasions the death of the *porenchyma*?" To this I can only plead ignorance; but still I think I can see how cold, or excessive, or any other interruption of the current of Sap which feeds the *porenchyma* might produce the appearance and effects we see before us. Something will be gained, however, if we can fix upon the particular organ which first becomes deranged; and without this knowledge, the prescribing of remedies is mere empiricism. Dr. R.'s collection is one of our largest; and his trees are planted in various aspects and soils; he has them both on Quince stocks, and on their own roots; yet he can perceive no difference in the liability to take the disease, from these circumstances. You know that the infection sometimes seems to strike through a plantation in a strait line, forcing the idea of its being a blast or current of air peculiar in its nature.

When a black spot appears on the bark of a tree, not passing around, it may be cut out and will spread no farther; this is within my own experience; but I cannot say it is so universally. This is not, however, what is spoken of as the *fire-blast*. In all our speculations upon the barrenness and diseases of our trees, I think sufficient stress is not laid upon the violent and sudden alternations to which they are subject; our Thermometers ranging from 20° Fahrenheit below Zero, to 96 above in the shade; making a range of 116 degrees; and they are exposed also to excessive drought, and such in the course of a week or two, and often to a dazzling, oppressive Sun, breaking out suddenly from almost utter darkness. Even the Strawberry question, in my opinion, depends a good deal more on the sort of weather we have in April, (the season of impregnation,) than the sexualists seem at all aware of.

The following from John W. Bailey, Esq., of Plattsburgh, Clinton county:

In compliance with the second clause of instructions in the printed Circular of the General Committee, of the North American Pomological Convention, I beg leave to submit the following remarks and observations, respecting the culture of fruit in the Northern Counties of this State, and particularly in Clinton County.

Clinton County has long been abundantly supplied with orchards of natural apples; but until quite recently, there has been no general advancement in the culture of choice fruits. Although some few gardens and orchards of very superior varieties have been in bearing for the last forty years,—and I

will here remark, "that it is the opinion of those best acquainted with Apples and Plums grown in this section of the State, that they are generally of higher flavor than the same varieties grown in Southern or Western New York; although the fruits of the West surpass ours in size.

REMARKS ON THE APPLE.

FAMEUSE.—In eating from October to January, and considered the very best desert apple of its season. The tree is hardy, and the fruit (having been cultivated in Plattsburgh for forty years,) has always grown *fair*, until within four or five years past; since which it has been very much spotted on old trees, and sometimes affected with the *bitter rot*. I am applying wood ashes, as a manure to the tree, which I think may restore the fruit to its former fairness. It is an abundant bearer, and a profitable fruit in this section of the State. It was introduced here from Montreal previous to 1810.

EARLY YELLOW BOUGH.—This Tree thrives well here, and bears regularly every year; the fruit is always fair, and of the best quality. Profitable.

YELLOW HARVEST.—This Tree is hardy, the fruit fair, regular bearer, and valuable; perhaps the most profitable early apple.

INDIAN RARE-RIPE.—The Tree is hardy, and a good bearer; the fruit always fair, and of excellent quality, both for the desert and kitchen. It ripens here about the 1st September. Profitable.

ROSSEAU.—A beautiful and high flavored fruit, large, very dark red, the color *sometimes* extending through to the core; but generally, not extending beyond the skin. A part of the fruit is apt to wither on the tree before it is half grown, causing the fruit to be very irregular in size and quality. The fruit ripens about the first of October, and when perfect, is excellent; but will not keep many days after attaining perfection. *Unprofitable*. The trees to which these remarks apply, are growing on sandy soil. First introduced here from Montreal previous to 1810.

WESTFIELD SEEKNOFARTHER.—The Tree here is hardy and very productive; the fruit grows fair; it is regarded here as of second quality, and is only moderately profitable.

ESOPUS SPITZENBERGH.—This is considered, in this section, No. 1, among winter Apples. The tree bears well every other year. In good cultivated orchards, the fruit is always of good size, fair, and of the highest flavor. The tree is moderately vigorous, not long lived. *Quite profitable*.

RHODE ISLAND GREENING.—The tree is vigorous, a good bearer, the fruit always fair, and is one of our most *Profitable Apples*.

POMME GRIS.—The tree is hardy, the fruit of the very highest flavor—the richest of all winter apples; not profitable to much extent, on account of its small size, but should be found in every garden. From Montreal.

BOURASA.—A very high flavored and beautiful fruit. In eating, from December to February; apt to wither if kept too warm. *Not certain as to profit*. Introduced at the same time of the Fameuse, Rosseau, Pomme Gris, &c., from Montreal, previous to 1810.

SWAAR.—The tree hardy; bears well every other year; fruit *fair*, productive and *profitable*.

ROXBURY RUSSET.—The tree hardy; fruit fair; bears regularly every year; excellent and *profitable*, on account of its long keeping and quality.

YELLOW BELLEFLEUR.—The tree thrives well; the fruit is fair and excellent, and promises to be profitable; it has been but lately introduced here, and is not generally known.

ST. LAWRENCE.—The tree vigorous and good bearer; fruit large, fair, and beautiful,—too acid for the desert, but profitable for market as a cooking apple.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Many other excellent varieties of apples are cultivated in this section; many of which are known only by local names, and will undoubtedly prove synonymous with kinds known in other parts of the country; it is therefore my intention to exhibit such of them, as I can obtain in a proper state of perfection, to the Convention.

With respect to Seedlings—I exhibited one from my orchard to the Fruit Committee of the New York State Agricultural Society, at their October meeting, which they reported as *first-rate*, and worthy of cultivation. I shall present specimens of the Fruit, with a description and name, to the Convention. It ripens about the 20th September.

REMARKS ON THE PEAR.

Pears have been cultivated by a few persons only in this county for the last thirty years, principally by sprouts and suckers, which have always proved perfectly hardy and quite productive. Never, up to this time, have any of our native pear trees, within my knowledge, been subject to any disease; and the Pear Blight is unknown among us, unless, in the instance named hereafter.

In the spring of 1847, I purchased at Flushing a quantity of Trees; and among them, some twenty Pear Trees, of extra size; half of them, on each, Pear and Quince, and of ten varieties. On the first of May last, these trees appeared in perfect health, generally thrifty, and nearly all well supplied with fruit buds; and I was rejoicing in the prospect of seeing good specimens of fruit on them this season. On the 15th May, my attention was drawn to one of these Pear trees; the bark on the South-West side of the trunk, was cracked and spongy, blackish, and evidently diseased. Supposing it to be the frozen sap blight, I cut the tree off below the part affected. In the course of ten days after, I found every one of this lot of trees similarly affected; many of them in spots the whole length of the stem. I cut off several of them below the part affected, (as I supposed), and others I found diseased to the root, but without any benefit. The trees are now all dead or past recovery. Now, what was the cause? was it the extreme cold of the winter, without the usual protection of snow? (see Meteorological abstract attached) or by the unseasonably cold weather of the 15th and 16th of April, (20 degrees above 0,) after the sap was in motion? was the injury entirely in the stem? or were the roots injured? I regret that I did not examine the roots at the time. What inclines me to think the roots were injured by the winter frost, is the fact, that about a dozen Plum trees in the nursery rows (of suitable size for planting) withered and died when the leaves were about half expanded, and on taking them up, I found the roots evidently frozen to death. Also many two year old root-grafted apple trees were killed out in the same manner. I submit the foregoing facts with a meteorological abstract of the last nine months, and call your notice to the fact, that heretofore we have been exempt from the frozen sap blight on Pears in this region.

ON PLUMS.

This fruit succeeds well in this section, particularly on strong clay soils. Many choice kinds are grown here; among them are the Green Gage, Bleecker's Gage, Washington, Yellow Gage, Lombard, White Magnum Bonum, Damson, &c., all of which are productive and profitable. The Egg Plum is apt to rot on the tree; a remedy which has been attended with success, is to bore a hole in the tree and put in a dose of sulphur and plug up tight. The Curculio is the only very troublesome insect that attacks the plum in this section.

ON CHERRIES.

Very little attention has heretofore been paid to the culture of choice varieties of cherries. The Morello is abundantly raised; and within the last few years, a great many of the finest kinds have been introduced, and begin to bear and promise well.

ON QUINCE.

The Quince will not succeed in this part of the State without care, and some slight protection. A neighbor of mine has had a few bushes in bearing for many years; they bear a few this season, and had no protection last winter.

ON PEACHES.

They require protection in this section. A few trees in this county are bearing a little fruit this season; these were protected by evergreens stuck around the tress and tied close in the fall and left till the first of May. I budded some three hundred seedling trees last August; the winter was unusually severe; the Thermometer in January and February, was, for nineteen days, below Zero, and once as low as 20°, and the ground bare of snow; the stocks were killed down generally to within six inches of the ground, and most of the buds killed out,—leaving, however, about twenty living, which have made a good growth; these had no protection whatever.

I would request your attention to these facts, with reference to the degree of cold necessary to kill all fruit buds, and inserted buds. I would merely remark further, that I think the degree of cold that buds will endure, depends very much on the previous warmth of the weather, and whether the buds have been affected thereby.

GOOSEBERRIES.

These are cultivated in many gardens with success; they are, however, frequently mildewed, but probably not more than in other sections of the country. We have found manuring them with leached ashes a preventative.

RASPBERRIES.

The White and Red Antwerp Raspberries are cultivated in Gardens generally in our villages, and with the best success; they are generally grown without protection. I have sometimes laid them down and given them a light covering of earth, and am of the opinion that the latter course is necessary to ensure a good crop. My Fastoff's bore heavily this season and were very fine.

STRAWBERRIES.

Many valuable kinds are now cultivated with success; among those most approved, are the Hovey's seedling, and Ross Phœnix. They bore well this season.

GRAPES.

THE ISABELLA.—The Isabella, is perhaps the best Grape that has been cultivated in this county successfully. It does very well trained on the South side of buildings; requires pruning, although not closely, and should be taken down and covered every fall; in this way we can depend on a good crop of Grapes with a certainty. I have known instances of large crops of Isabellas from vines that have not been pruned for a number of years; except so far

as it has been pruned by the frost ; a case of this kind occurs this year within my observation.

WHITE SWEETWATER.—This Grape does well on open trellises ; but not so well on a wall, being apt to mould ; they must be laid down every winter, and require close pruning.

MUSCADEL.—This Grape is perfectly hardy here, and is fine for training over buildings ; it is a good grape, and requires but little pruning : and three weeks earlier than the Isabella. Valuable for this climate.

COWAN.—A hardy native Grape, of good size and quality, brought into this county by the late Judge Cowan. Valuable for this climate.

INSECTS.

The Aphides, and the Caterpillar, are the only insects that prove destructive to the apple in this section ; the Apple Borer, as far as I am aware, has not attacked our trees ; and the Canker Worm is but little known here. The Aphides have sometimes attacked our Pear Trees ; we apply the usual remedies. The Curculio is the only insect that has proved destructive to Plums. I have been unable to make any observations on insects, that will be of value to you. Plums in this section, as far as my observation extends, have been almost entirely free from the Curculio this season ; the Aphides have prevailed much less this season, than last year ; Caterpillars about as usual.

REMARKS ON THE WEATHER.

Last season we lost all our Peaches, Plums and Cherries, as it has been said, by the extreme cold,—the Thermometer having sunk as low in different sections of the country, as from 10 to 17 below 0.

The present season our Plums and Cherries are bearing in great abundance, and a very few Peaches, *even here*, have escaped the extreme cold ; exceeding by three degrees in intensity, and as compared with 1847-8, twenty days below Zero, to seven of the former year.

We have been suffering intensely from the drought for the last six weeks,—previous to 1st August,—which has caused apples to fall, and has shortened the Strawberry and Raspberry season here. Our Pears and Plums, however, I hope will not be injured by it now,—10th August,—we have rain in abundance.

FRUITFULNESS OF THE YEAR.

APPLES—Blossomed very full and set ; but in consequence of unfavorable weather afterwards, the fall from the trees leaving quite a light crop.

PEARS—Abundant bearing.

CHERRIES—Abundant bearing.

PLUMS—Abundant bearing.

PEACHES—Failure

QUINCES—Failure.

GOOSEBERRIES—Abundant bearing.

RASPBERRIES—Somewhat less than last year.

GRAPES—Abundant bearing.

METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT.

FROM 1ST NOVEMBER, 1848, TO 1ST AUGUST, 1849.

- NOVEMBER.... Coldest day, 11th, 10° above ☉.
 Warmest day, 5th, 57°
 Rain Gage, $2\frac{71}{100}$ in.
- DECEMBER.... Coldest day, 23d, 10° below ☉.
 Warmest day, 18th, 50° above ☉. } One day below Zero.
 Rain Gage, $2\frac{67}{100}$ in.
- JANUARY..... Coldest day, 19th, 13° below ☉.
 Warmest day, 26th, 48° above ☉.
 3 inches snow.
- FEBRUARY.... Coldest day, 17th, 20° below.
 Warmest day, 26th 44° above—
 8 inches snow.
 Thermometer was 8 day below Zero, $3^{\circ} 2^{\circ} 1^{\circ} 11^{\circ} 4^{\circ} 6^{\circ} 13^{\circ} 7^{\circ}$
 2, 4, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19 & 22.
- MARCH..... Coldest day, 5th, 9° above.
 Warmest day, 31st, 50° above—
 2 inches rain.
- APRIL..... Coldest days, 15th and 16th, 20° above.
 Warmest day, 4th, 62° above—
- MAY..... Coldest day, 4th, 35°.
 Warmest day, 20th, 72°—
 2 in. rain.
- JUNE..... Coldest day, 10th, 45°
 Warmest day, 22d, 93°—
 $1\frac{14}{100}$ in. rain.
- JULY..... Coldest day, 1st, 54°.
 Warmest day, 15th, 100°—
 $1\frac{3}{100}$ in. rain.

MEMORANDUM OF COLD WEATHER, 1848.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| January 4, 9, 10, 11. | | January 1st, warmest day, |
| $\frac{10^{\circ} 10^{\circ} 15^{\circ} 17^{\circ}}$ | | 52°. |
| February 11, 12, | | March 13th, |
| $\frac{4^{\circ} 4^{\circ}}$ | | ☉ |

RAIN.—Water fallen for 12 months ending 31st December, 1848, is thirty-two inches.

Water fallen for 9 months ending 31st July, 1849, not exactly ascertained, but will not exceed 15 inches.

A lively interest is springing up among people generally in Clinton county, and appearances indicate a steady advance in fruit culture.

In Essex county, there has also been some considerable advance; and it is presumed they will not stop.

In Franklin county, but little has yet been done ; but the People are beginning to enquire for trees and information ; and it is presumed they will not long be left without good fruit.

PLATTSBURG, Clinton County, August, 1849.

Report of W. R. Coppock, Esq., of Buffalo, Erie County :

As one of the Committee, appointed for this State, to examine and report upon the progress of Horticulture, in the western portion of this State ; and in the County of Erie, and adjoining towns, on the lake border more particularly, I beg leave to offer the following report :—

In taking a retrospective view of the past season, it may be well to premise, first, our winter has been even more than usually severe,—the mercury frequently below zero,—with strong prevailing winds, and but little snow for any continuous period. The months of January and February were peculiar from the sudden transitions of temperature ; March, April and May were generally cold and cheerless, with much rain, at, or near, freezing point. The Peach suffered much, and generally, the drizzling cold rains with occasional warm vernal weather put a sad check to this delicate fruit, whose leaves, ever extremely sensitive to transition, were blistered, and crumpled and eventually died, together with such young wood as had been made up to June. Many various opinions were entertained as to the true cause,—cold was undoubtedly the agent ; other fruits were more generally spared, and the *season* may be generally considered as a fruitful year. Plums are abundant, as also apples, pears, apricots, cherries, with an occasional exception ; indeed, generally speaking the various fruits have been fairer, and less attacked by the usual depredatory insects. The curculio has certainly appeared vastly less. The apple borer we know but little of, and the frozen or sap blight in Pears, and the yellows in Peaches, are entirely unknown to our localities. The Gooseberry grub and the Rose bug, however, together with an infinite variety of the Aphides, are well known and abounding with us.

The progress of Horticulture is rapidly onward ; zeal, skill, and successful enterprise is becoming general, and amateur and professional labors are becoming very extended throughout our whole section. Perhaps it might not be unsafe to aver that fruits generally have increased in quantity in this section of country, at least 300 per cent, during the past five years.

Our soils are very varied in their character, chiefly upon a limestone base, and embrace even in small localities, all the requisite peculiarities necessary for the proper culture of our general fruits. The latitude of Buffalo is 42° 53' N. and at an altitude of between 500 and 600 feet above tide water. The proximity of the lakes, and the prevailing winds having passed over those large bodies of water, I have no doubt the climate becomes temperate, and yields a humidity admirably adapted to fruit culture ; no where does the apple, or pear, or indeed any of the fruits which usually ripen in this meridian, succeed better than with us. The Grape, too—Isabella, Catawba, Miller's Burgundy, with the White Sweetwater, and other native grapes—generally ripen their fruit with us. We are also, in many instances, cultivating the finer *foreign* varieties of the grape by the aid of glass, in what is termed the cold vinery ; and indeed the routine of Horticulture, in all its varied departments, is becoming not only a source of infinite pleasure in its stimuli, but, through our markets, a source of large profit.

In enumerating our standard fruits, I will begin with the Strawberry, and remark en passant, that perhaps no one fruit has so many dissenting opinions, as to successes and reverses in their culture. The failures, however, are more chiefly confined to the large varieties, and are I feel satisfied attributable

to bad management and impoverished soils. There is a fact in vegetable Physiology, that is sadly overlooked by too many of our fruit growing friends, viz: That high bred, and hybrid, and cross bred varieties require a corresponding high feeding and careful cultivation; and this is in evidence, not only, with fruits and vegetables, but alike also with animals. Thus, much diversity of success, and of course opinion, has prevailed with regard to the variety—Hovey's Seedling, as a bearer, yielding a full and fair crop. With myself, heretofore, it has failed, but only from the causes before mentioned; with others, where suitable strong and rich soil, and a proper system of pruning the runners, has been carefully followed, immense crops both in quantity and size have followed. A too common fault of persons growing these vines for sale, lies in their mapping them for runners, year after year, and rarely growing them for fruit. By these means, the constitution of so high a bred plant becomes sadly degenerated; in truth, its fructifying powers have become nearly extinct. The same remarks will apply to all, or nearly so, of the large varieties. The most proper variety with us, are the misnamed "*Large*" *Early Scarlet*—*Hovey's Seedling*, *Burr's New Pine*, *Rival Hudson* and *Boston Pine*.

APRICOTS AND NECTARINES.

These fruits are cultivated to but a limited extent, in our vicinity; and yet they are to be found in many gardens in the vicinity of the city. A too general mistake in their culture has given them a warm aspect, the South, well protected, where they suffer from our late spring frosts; *Dubois' Golden* and the *Moor Park Apricot*, and the *Large Early Violet*, and the *Downton Nectarines* are in cultivation with us; subject of course to the same evil that the plum is—the *curculio*.

CHERRIES.

The cherry family grow with us in profusion, and are rendered a large source of profit. Single trees in our neighborhood yield from \$15 to \$18, per year for fruit. *Black Tartarian*, *Elk Horn*, *Belle de Choisy*, *Yellow Spanish*, and the *May Duke* are among the most popular. We had hoped this season to have fruited some of *Dr. Kirtland's* seedlings from scions he very kindly furnished us. The specimens we have tasted of several of his varieties have led us to anticipate a valuable accession to the Cherry family. The large varieties require strong cultivation, in rich loams, to mature well.

Of the diseases to which this fruit is subject, perhaps that of being "bark bound," is the most prominent, and has led many persons into a barbarous practice of tattooing and scouring the bark, and other mutilations for a cure entirely empirical and unnecessary. The bark-bind of a tree is analogous to the hide-bound of an animal, and simply requires the same treatment, emollients—an application of warm soft soap, well painted on the tree, early in the season, will generally prevent the malady. There is however, another and more thorough preventive for this trouble, equally applicable to the whole range of fruit culture, which is this—grow the tree low, avoiding a long surface of trunk for a midsummer sun, to dry and evaporate the juices which ought otherwise to be used elsewhere. Depend upon it this is the grand secret of successful health and growth, of very many of our fine fruits. Take for instance the past summer, which has been one of long drought, and with hardly a particle of humidity in the atmosphere; such a season is peculiarly trying to all vegetation, but especially so to tall trees. It is from this great exposure of a large surface to a searching and drying sun, that so many of our forest trees when left isolated die off. Another advantage of low heads, is the shading, and of course, cooling, the roots, so very genial to

summer growth. Mulching is then not necessary, the powers of the soil readily receive fresh streams of air; moisture is readily attained by capillary attraction, and constitution and vigor attends the tree.

PLUMS.

The Plum, no less than the Cherry, flourishes well with us; it riots in good living in a not too light soil; indeed both the Cherry and the Plum luxuriate in a stiff clay loam that is well worked and drained, and contains a full share of the inorganic constituents which composed it. The chief and only enemy it has to contend with, is the Curculio. Of the many receipts that have been chronicled as certain cure, none with us other than the mesmeric manipulation of that veteran Pomologist, David Thomas, "*stays put.*" That is, catch them and draw, if you please, their proboscis—Paving, salt, sulphur, &c. &c., are of no avail; the truth is, the animal flies, and is abundantly found in our Western woods. In close settled districts, cities and towns, would our plum-loving friends be industrious for a few seasons, the race, I am satisfied, might be annihilated. In my own case, where, a few years since, they ruined every plum and apricot, they have by this method of the spread sheet, &c., nearly disappeared; last season I paid a penny each for every specimen; this season I can well pay in plums.

We have, I am sorry to see, harbored among us, a great many mongrel seedlings, many of which, I have no doubt, are from the Green Gage, being somewhat larger, some resembling Bleeker's Gage, others Prince's yellow Gage, and again like the Drap d'Or. None, however, are equal to the parent, or the varieties mentioned, and whose good name they have pilfered. In flavor, they have no marked character, but a sickish, clammy, unwholesome dry flesh.

The varieties most esteemed are—Washington, Lawrence's Favorite, Bleeker's Gage, Garden Gage, (seldom found true,) Purple Favorite, Coe's Golden Drop, Prince's yellow Gage, Diapree Rouge, and for a late plum for preserves, Frost Gage, and for the same purpose we might add the White Magnum Bonum, from its fine size and color. The balance of the Magnum Bonum and Egg family are coarse, tasteless, and valueless cumberers of the ground.

PEARS.

In Pear culture, a new era has dawned upon us. A truly valuable, wholesome and nutritious edible, which, in former years, was planted for the benefit of the succeeding generation, has by the genius of man been so rejuvenated, that the old man may plant with a fair assurance that to him shall revert a reward for his labor; and neither shall he be obliged to hazard his neck upon a crazy ladder to attain it: but, go forth, putting out his hand, pluck the ripened fruit. Without farther hyperbole, I allude to the Dwarf, or Quince stocks so admirably adapted to garden culture. Here they may stand within six feet of each other, and under a proper system of pruning, the crop may be gathered within reach of the hand. This is indeed the true acme of fruit-growing. There are but few varieties of the Pear but what grow admirably upon the Quince, and indeed the few refractory, such as the Dix, Beurre Bosc, and others, do well when double worked, that is, budding or grafting upon a stock already worked upon the Quince. These dwarfs usually come into bearing the second or third year from working, and some of the varieties, the Barlett, for instance, frequently the first season. This fruit has rapidly accumulated around us, and the varieties are nearly, if not equal in numbers, to the Pear mania districts of the Eastern States. In their care, however, we have learned a serious lesson, viz: money and time both wasted. The heads of hundreds of our carefully nursed trees are becoming decapita-

ted in order to replace them with, perhaps, a less euphonious name—but a more intrinsically valuable fruit. The varieties which we more especially rely upon, are—*Stevens' Genesee*, *Onondaga*, *Seckel*, *Dearborn's Seedling* of the American varieties; of the foreign, *Bartlett*, *Dutchess d'Angouleme*, *Louise Bonne de Jersey*, *White Doyenne*, *Beurre d'Arenburg*, *Maria Louise*, *Glout Moreceau*—with some others.

APPLES.

This fruit may well be deemed one of the staples of both the orchard and the garden; its reliable crop and the many valuable uses to which it may be put, alike demand our attention and skill, prompted too, by strong motives of domestic policy, as a marketable and exporting product; one indeed of growing magnitude and profit. The apple is peculiarly, and like the peach, an American fruit. Our seedling varieties find no rivals in Europe; adapted by climate and temperature to our northern, and especially the western and middle States, we are becoming exporters to all portions of world. The varieties chiefly in cultivation with us, are the *Northern Spy*, *Westfield Seek-nofurther*, *Swaar*, *Rhode Island Greening*, *Early Strawberry*, *Early June*, *Roxbury Russet*, *Esopus Spitzenberg*, *Baldwin*, *Midder*, *Green Newtown Pippin*, *Talman's Sweeting*, *Detroit Red*—with many others; but these may be considered the most favored varieties. Heretofore we have had an excellent market for apples at Chicago and other ports in the Upper Lakes; but such has been the rapidity of enterprise in those sections, that ere long they will become rather exporters than importers of fruits generally.

Before closing this too, perhaps, desultory report, I would respectfully urge upon the members of the Convention, the necessities and advantages that would accrue, did they cultivate enquiry and concert of action upon those branches of entomology which treat of an almost innumerable tribe of predatory insects so destructive to fruit trees; as well also should the attention of the Convention be directed to the analysis of the various woods composing the great routine of fruit culture; the nature and effects of special manures in ameliorating what are considered worn-out soils, by supplying those inorganic constituents which compose the plants; the peculiar effects of climate and hybridation upon their vitality and longevity, and as far as practicable, an exposition of vegetable physiology as connected with the phenomena of vegetable economy.

These, and indeed other subjects, are fully comprised in the practice and spirit of Horticulture, and it is to this Convention that we must look for that wisdom and direction so necessary to beneficial and successful results.

VINE COTTAGE, BUFFALO, N. Y., September, 1849.

REPORT

OF F. R. ELLIOTT, CLEVELAND, OHIO, TO THE PRESIDENT
AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL
CONVENTION.

Appointed as Chairman of a State Fruit Convention for Ohio, I find myself compelled, as it were, to offer a short report, without, in fact, having much material whereon to build the same.

No communication having reached me from any of my colleagues in Committee for the State, coupled with an almost unprecedented scarcity of fruits throughout the State, I shall consider myself as having good and sufficient cause for brevity.

As all may know the geographical position of our State by reference to the map, I shall not consider it necessary to say aught upon it, but confine myself simply to remarks upon the times of ripening, and general character of fruits, in various sections of the State.

The Strawberry being the first to ripen, I may write that a variety received (and which I think correct,) as Southboro' Seedling, has ripened among our very earliest. Two seasons it has perfected its fruit along with Large Early Scarlet; and is, I think, a more prolific variety—equally large berry and hardy vine.

The new varieties of Strawberry originated by Mr. Burr at Columbus, of which reports have been made and published, have not, with one exception, fruited sufficiently to my knowledge, in this part of the State, to enable any person to speak confidently of their ultimate qualities.

The "New Pine" and Ohio Mammoth, have both produced a few berries of fine size,—the latter variety however, producing only imperfect fruit, and promising little for productiveness. Burr's Old Seedling is a variety that may be recommended to fruit growers who desire a hardy vine, and prolific for culture in gardens, simply for family use, and where it is not intended to devote much time to their care. This and Southboro' Seedling, Dundee, Large Early Scarlet, and a variety known as the Willey, are all such as will produce profitably, with little care.

The latter named variety, "Willey," for a history of which I refer to the "Reports of Ohio Fruit Convention," page 40, for 1848, and have again this season examined with some degree of attention, and connected with information gained from Mr. Edward Thompson, formerly gardener to Mr. Willey, I am more and more induced to think is now as distributed, not uniformly a distinct variety, but that the bed of Mr. Willey's, in which the variety of Mrs. Lord's was planted, no particular care was taken to eradicate seedlings, and therefore while some cultivators have a new and distinct berry for this variety, others have one which it is difficult to distinguish from the Hudson.

Connected with the noting of a few varieties, comes the subject of profit and loss in growing the same.

While Cincinnati ranks first of all in the quantities of berries sold in her markets, I do not recollect any particular statement as to the profit of growing the same. That it has proved profitable we know, from the fact of cultivators continuing the propagation, and extending the quantity of ground. The amount of profits of course, must depend, from year to year, on the quantity produced, and the demand.

I have not myself entered much into the culture of them for markets, and cannot give a fair estimate of the profit of one variety over another, when grown to any extent. I will however give the following, from which some data may be obtained, and will also add, that I question, whether the variety I used is any more productive than would be Dundee or Burr's old seedling.

Upon one-fourth of an acre, light loamy sand, rather poor, not highly manured, I planted in 1846, the variety known as Willey, in rows two feet apart, and plants one foot apart in the row.

In 1847, I gathered during twenty-six consecutive days, 1345 quarts for sale, and for which I received one hundred and forty dollars, when taken to market.

In 1848, I gathered for sale, 615 quarts, for which I received sixty-three dollars, fifty-five cents. These amounts are exclusive of what were gathered from time to time for family use, of some twelve persons.

I estimate as follows:—

| | |
|--|----------|
| Use of one-fourth acre of land, 3 years, | \$6 00 |
| Labor planting and hoeing first year, | 4 00 |
| Labor planting and hoeing second year, | 3 00 |
| Labor planting and hoeing third year, | 3 00 |
| Labor gathering first year, | 20 00 |
| Labor gathering second year, | 12 00 |
| | \$48 00 |
| Receipts first year,—cash, \$140 00 | |
| Receipts second year,—cash, 63 35 | |
| Receipts, say for family use, 10 00 | 213 35 |
| | \$165 35 |
| Nett profit, | \$165 35 |

The culture of fruits for individual use, as well as for sale, is rapidly extending in Ohio. A general taste for reading upon Horticultural and Agricultural subjects, has become so prevalent, that aside from the numerous journals, devoted exclusively to the subject, circulating among us, there is hardly a newspaper of any account, but what has within the past three years, found it advisable to success, to devote a portion of its columns to this particular subject. Large orchards are being planted in the northern portion of our State, consisting of Apples, Pears, Cherries and Peaches.

In the southern portion, orchardists confine themselves principally to apples suited to the southern market. The shores of Lake Erie being generally exempt from late spring frosts, a crop may be counted upon, say five years out of six.

The proprietors of Kelley Island, situate in Lake Erie, nearly opposite of Sandusky, are planting orchards of Apples and Pears, with a view to shipment to England,—Cherries and Peaches for lake and southern markets. The opening of Railroad communications, between the lake and river, will tend to increase the growth of fruits at the north, and lessen the culture of early vegetables, inasmuch as the one can be grown more surely here than at the south, or central part of the State, and the other can be grown on the river borders, in open culture, ready for sale, about as soon as here, by means of glass. The culture of the Rhubarb or Pie-plant, has been found one of great profit at Cincinnati and elsewhere, by gardeners; but the variety, Victoria, has not been found as profitable to pull from as some, considered more common varieties. Visiting the garden of Mr. Thompson, this season, I noticed one among hundreds of seedling roots, that if it is found to bear pulling from freely, will doubtless excel anything as yet noticed. It is of fine grain—large round stalks, and equally as long as Victoria, and of a much more agreeable acid than any variety I know.

The culture of the Cherry has become one of doubt in the central and southern parts of the State, so much so, that although yearly, there are more or less planted, and some successfully grown; yet the deaths have been so numerous, that many are deterred from planting, and substitute the Apple where they would prefer the Cherry. The disease which affects the tree, by some called sun-blight, by others plethora, or a kind of asthmatic affection, has been treated upon by Professor Turner, in the "Horticulturist," and also by the present writer. As I can say no more than I have there done, I will not occupy space here, but refer to that article all who wish to know my views upon it. Numerous are the new seedling varieties yearly produced; some of which are fully equal to most of older well known kinds, others not deserving a passing notice, only to condemn.

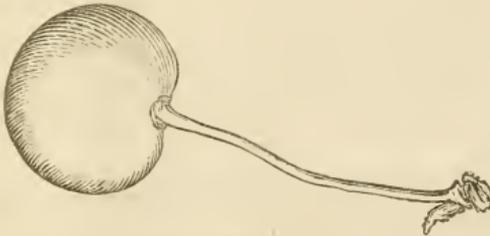
E. Cushing, M.D., of Cleveland, has also originated several new seedlings, which are some of them reputed valuable. Not having had opportunity of examining and comparing them, I cannot say how much they deserve commendation.

Mr. M. Lindley, of Euclid, Ohio, has in like manner some new seedlings, and so also Mr. D. Proudfoot, of Cleveland; but not having seen fruits of them, I cannot speak of their value.

Professor J. P. Kirtland, the pioneer fruit cultivator in Ohio, has grown numerous seedlings, of which some notices and descriptions, have been from time to time published. The cherries, of which notice has been made, were grown from pits of the Bigarreau, Graffion, or Yellow Spanish. The parent tree standing in close proximity with a Black-heart, and Black-mazzard; while most of the seedlings have borne a strong resemblance to the Bigarreau, some few have proved only good Mazzards, and two or three resemble the Black-Heart.

The decay of the fruit upon the trees this season, coupled with the deprecations of the Rose-bug, taking in connection with the injury the germs received while in flower, from a long continued cold wind, has given little opportunity for examining and testing varieties. Sufficient however matured, to enable us to become satisfied, that a variety originally introduced by Prof. Kirtland to Ohio, in 1844, under name of Swedish,* by which name it was billed at an Eastern Nursery, is identical with Early White Heart. It is sometimes known in Ohio as Swedish Red-heart; Bowyer's Early Heart, we also consider identical with the foregoing. A variety introduced into Ohio, as "German May-duke," fruited this season, side by side, with Early Purple Guigne, and is identified with the latter.

A valuable Morello Cherry, which originated with Professor Kirtland, some 20 years since, but which has never before been described, is the "Shannon," named so in respect to the Hon. Wilson Shannon, once the Governor of this State.



SHANNON.

* In McMahon's American Gardener, Edition 1806—this variety is named as Swedish:—question, whether this name has not priority.

FORM—Globular, flattened at junction with stem.

SIZE—Above medium, or rather larger than May Duke.

STEM—Long and slender, inserted in an open cavity.

COLOR—Dark purplish red.

FLESH—Somewhat stained or marbled, with purplish red, tender, juicy, acid.

PIT—Small in proportion to size of fruit.

RIPE—July 12th to 15th.

Tree from which the specimen and description was taken—stands in grass ground, and without culture.

With the decay in the fruit previous to, or about the time of maturity, I have at various times attributed it to various causes, and am yet fully unsettled as to the true cause. Malaria existing in the atmosphere may be the prime cause, and to this I have before attributed it, but why that cause should continue from season to season, and also from the ripening of Cherries, until the most of Peaches are gone, I am not able to determine.

It is not improbable that another cause, and the same which I am induced to think causes leaf blight in Pear and Plum, may be the one that produces the decay in fruit. I mean a want of some material in the soil—chemical analysis of some few particular varieties—analysis of both wood and fruit, and application to the tree of the component parts such analysis shows needed, will test the truth of this theory.

The leaf blight has been more extended in the Pear and Plum this season, than that of any previous one in Ohio. Application of common salt and wood ashes to one tree, and of wood ashes alone to another Plum tree, has rendered them free from leaf blight, and a continued healthy appearance throughout the season. Application of Poudrette, ground bones, ashes and lime—all mingled, have rendered Pear trees, side by side, or say thirty feet distant each, healthy, and free from leaf blight, while those without such application have been affected.

Insects have been more numerous this season than before in Ohio. The Curculio leaves but few fruits unpunctured. The Rose-bug devours Cherries, Peaches, Apricots and Plums, with an earnestness that dismays by its hundreds and thousands, the most sanguine pomologist.

The Slug in his slime, unknown hereabouts, until last season, has been very destructive this year, and for all these various insects, the various remedies advised have been used, and by some with success—by others with failure.

The culture of the Peach in northern Ohio is increasing fast, and it may be said to be a variety of fruit that repays culture and occupation of land, as well as any other. In seasons like the present, the ripe fruit along the Lake-shore commands readily two to three dollars per bushel, and in the best fruit seasons, rarely falls below one dollar per bushel. The dried Peach is also an item of no inconsiderable note, when estimated from the books of dealers therein,—dried Peaches usually commanding ready sale at three dollars per bushel. Numerous seedlings are almost yearly being produced, many of them very fine, and yet none that are sufficiently superior to varieties already named and described, as to render them worthy a place in a list of the best varieties.

From Lorain and Tuscarora Counties, I have received some very fine new seedlings, but as before remarked, not of any *superior* character, to place them above varieties already known.

Many cultivators in Ohio are now planting out orchards of seedling Peach trees, grown from pits of the most choice varieties, under the impression that the trees will be more hardy than those budded. This of course will tend to introduce almost innumerable new seedlings, doubtless many of them

of great excellence; but under such circumstances, it also requires, from whoever may introduce any variety to notice, close discernment and intimate acquaintance with existing named kinds.

The disease termed Yellows is almost unknown in Ohio, and I may be thought bold and presuming, when I assert that I do not think it ever was found existing in a tree planted in rich virgin earth; but always in trees in some old garden, or some badly cultivated orchard, with worn-out soil.

Apricots rarely endure our climate more than three to four years; although of course many instances are found of large trees, either budded upon the Peach or Plum stock, if united near the ground, they have proved failures as a whole.

If however, the Plum or Peach stock, is formed with one tier of branches, and the Apricot inserted above, they are successful and durable.

Nearly every named variety of this, as well as all other fruits, are kept by our western nurserymen, for sale, and therefore are all on trial.

The Breda and Peach varieties, are however those most generally disseminated.

The Nectarine in fruit is rarely known here,—some cultivators planting trees, but the fruit being so preyed upon by the Curculio, it is rare to meet with it in a ripened form.

The Plum of some variety may be found in all townships, and nearly all gardens, owing more to the fact of so many Germans being among our population, than the pleasure any one has of the ripened fruit. The Curculio presents himself at almost all points, being however less destructive upon strong clay, than on sandy soils.

Not having any specimens this season upon which to remark, I should refer to what was published in the Transactions of Ohio Fruit Growers' Conventions for 1848, where any one desirous of information relating to it in Ohio, will find it.

I may however remark here, that the decay in the fruit, of which I have made note on a previous page, and which I half ascribe to atmospheric influence, has existed this season in trees upon dry, and on moist soils alike.

In fact a tree supplied with all known requisites to cause its perfection of fruit, has lost nearly all by decay, while at same time the tree has appeared healthy and vigorous.

With the Pear and Apple, as most varieties will probably come up for discussion in the Convention, I shall pass over any comments, preferring rather to record them at that time, and in connection with others, than at this present. For some early varieties, I refer again to the Ohio Fruit Reports, not having anything further to note of them.

REPORT

OF F. S. PHOENIX, AS CHAIRMAN OF WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL COMMITTEE, TO THE NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

This new State from its great size, presents quite a diversity of soil and climate. A large portion however, being as yet unsettled, remains practically "*terra incognita*" to the Horticulturist. It is only the southern portion that has been as yet reclaimed from its native wilderness. The surface of this portion is gently undulating, with but little very flat or very rough land,—though there is occasionally a gravel ridge, or group of gravel knolls. From one third to one half of its surface is prairie, the rest timbered land or openings, mostly the latter. Oak is the prevailing timber. The soil is mostly a loam from six inches, to as many feet in depth, resting generally on a gravelly sub-soil. Near the surface the sand predominates, but as you descend to the gravel, the soil becomes more clayey and heavier. On the prairies the soil is generally blacker and richer than in the openings. There seems to be in much of our soil, a principle that proves peculiarly exciting to Peach and English Cherry trees, and more or less so to all trees, causing a rankness and immaturity of growth, that is very susceptible to injury from the cold. Our soil is easily worked, and is admirably adapted to withstand severe drouths or heavy rains.

But the great peculiarity of this country in a horticultural point of view, lies as I think in its climate which is quite different from that in the same latitude in the Eastern States. This difference may be generally stated as follows:—There is here much more sunshine—much less rain and snow, and hence a dryer atmosphere—more constant winds (though none so severe) and perhaps more changes and greater extremes in the weather. But winters vary much—from quite mild, and with almost no snow and many thaws, to long and severe ones, with two feet of snow, the thermometer sometimes ranging as low as 26° below 0. These severe winters are the great source of trouble to nursery-men and Fruit-growers here; operating as they do not unfavorably upon all trees and plants not perfectly hardy. It would be very interesting to inquire particularly into the occasion of those peculiarities in our climate; but having neither the time nor ability, I can only remark that I think them owing to our far inland position, our propinquity to the great Lakes and the great plainness or champaign character of our surface.

The prevailing amount of wind may have much to do with them. They are the more striking from the fact that in going a little distance, (say 120 miles) East or South, we find a very different climate. The capabilities of our soil for growing fruit have been as yet but slightly tested, as the country has been much settled only some six or eight years. But had even that time been rightly improved, we might have made far greater advancement in Horticulture than we have. As it is other and more immediately passing wants and interests have been suffered to engross our attention until lately, as the tide of Horticultural progress has broken over us, we are being aroused to a sense of our backwardness and a determination if possible to make up lost time.

We can therefore report but few attainments in Horticulture; yet enough has been done, to enable us to form a pretty correct idea of the rank and character this country will probably assume among fruit producing sections. There are many young orchards planted out, some of which have been in bearing four or five years, uniformly producing, where of good kinds, fair and unusually fine-grained, high flavored fruit. In regard to the production of

apples, I do not hesitate to record it as my deliberate opinion, that it is destined to rank among the very first fruit-growing sections. Common red Cherries also succeed admirably. Plums and Pears also flourish, but will not be perhaps so generally or easily raised as they have been at the East.—Peaches, English Cherries, Quinces, are decidedly more uncertain and difficult to raise by reason of the occasional severity of our winters injuring the trees or the fruit-buds. With care however they may be made to succeed tolerably well in favorable locations. Peaches, I am quite confident will yet be grown here in large quantities in favorable seasons. As to the smaller fruits, they do exceedingly well, though the more tender sorts require protection.—In regard to the quality of our fruits, it is of the very finest kind; decidedly superior as I think, and were it not for the occasional severity of our winters, we might challenge the world to excel us in the production of fine fruit.—As it is, we can have, and shall have soon, much excellent fruit, and as the country grows older, and our inhabitants find more time and facilities to care for and make experiments with the more tender sorts, we may reasonably expect them to become comparatively abundant.

The injuries to fruit trees, by our winters or the cold, may be classed as follows:—

1. A bursting of the bark in the Fall, at the base of young apple trees, *grafted on the root*—more particularly of the tender sorts. This is sometimes very troublesome, especially to Nursery-men, before they ascertain which those tender sorts are.

2. A corruption or decomposition of the tissues of the trees, by which the heart-wood decays, wounds as in trimming canker, and the bark decays in spots. All sorts are liable to this species of injury. If severe and not overcome by a very rigorous outside growth, the top soon decays.

3 Mechanical freezing down of the extremities, often combined with the preceding. To this, Peach, Quinces, and English Cherry Trees are most liable. The liability to all three of those is greatly increased by a late, rank growth.

4. The destruction of Peach, and English Cherry blossom buds by severe cold or sudden changes in the winter, which happens with Peaches almost every other year, or three years out of five. Thus we see the two great horticultural desideratums to be accomplished here :

1. To so modify and cultivate the soil, as that the growth of trees shall be moderate and perfectly matured.

2. To protect and shelter tender trees as far as possible from injury in our winters.

These objects will be best attained as I conceive by the following considerations—the selection of the hardiest sorts—elevated locations for fruit trees, and a soil not too rich—cultivation early in the season only, and protecting them by buildings, fences, hedges, &c., from our *piercingly severe, drying winter winds*. I am also inclined to think that some applications may be made to the soil, to induce an *early mature growth*. Old, well-rotted manure moderately applied, seems to have this effect at least upon apple trees, so far as I have tried it.

The diseases of fruit trees with us, are of course few as yet; their enemies being mostly external, such as worms, bugs, aphides &c., in which the West is remarkably fruitful.

THE NURSERY BUSINESS AND PRACTICE—HARDIHOOD OF VARIETIES.

Nurseries are being thickly established among us, so that there is no danger but there will be a fair trial of the merits of the fruit and fruit-tree business here. Thousands of trees are also annually shipped from the East, and

brought up from the South ; many in so miserable a condition, that they are only put out to die, to say nothing of their utter destitution of correctness in name. Apple trees are sold at from 18 to 25 cents, and \$16 to \$20 per 100. Plum, Pear, and English Cherry 37 1-2 to 50 cents. Apple trees are generally propagated by root-grafting, though many sorts thus worked are so tender as to be utterly worthless (as Nurserymen are learning to their cost,) and must therefore be worked well up in the stock, and carefully managed for the first year or two. Prominent among these tender sorts are the R. I. Greening, Roxbury Russet, Baldwin, Rambo, Esopus Spitzenburg, &c., &c. Plum trees are mostly root grafted; the wild Plum making an excellent stock. Many sorts are comparatively tender.

Duane's Purple, Smith's Orleans, Emerald Drop, Imperial Gage, and Long Scarlet, prove tolerably hardy. Of Pears, the hardiest sorts I have found have been the Urbaniste Flemish Beauty, White Doyenne, and Beurre Easter.—The far famed Bartlett seems more than usually tender here. Of English Cherries, the May Duke, and if I have the genuine, the Arch Duke, and Downer's prove the hardiest. Amongst Grapes, the Clinton is perfectly hardy, while the Isabella and Sweetwater do best to be laid down, trimmed and covered with litter in the Fall. From the above remarks it may readily be inferred, that this is not "the Paradise" of nurserymen, but that in raising young trees, they sometimes have "a hard row" of it! Of fruits tested I would name of Plums; Imperial Gage, Smith's Orleans, Duane's Purple, Emerald Drop, Long Scarlet, and a variety I think to be the Lombard. Of Apples, Early Harvest, Keswick Codlin, Dutchess of Oldenburg, Drap D'Or, Fameuse, Yellow Ingertrie, Autumn Strawberry, Spur or Spice Sweet, Dunlow's Seedling, Pomme Gris, Vanderveer, (doubtless I think the Newtown Spitszenburg of the West,) all of which maintain about their Eastern reputation with me. I have also fruited a few variety of pears and peaches, and several other plums and apples, nearly all of which are unknown to fame, and have need not now to be mentioned.

REPORT

OF J. C. HOLMES, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN, TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

The fruit crop in Michigan is this season almost an entire failure. We have but little fruit worthy of exhibition; but it being our wish that Michigan may continue to be known in this assembly, a few of our fruit-growers present herewith some specimens of fruit gleaned from their scanty crops.

By the following extracts from letters I have received from different parts of our State, you will see what proportion our fruit crop of 1849, bears to that of 1848.

From Linus Cone Esq., Troy, Oakland County: "I regret to say that I have no fair specimens of fruit; few of my trees are in bearing this season; I have no early or fall apples; the trees are thrifty, and making a great growth of wood, but the fruit is unfair, small and late. Last season from sixty trees, I sold 212 barrels of apples, and had a large supply for my family besides. It was mostly winter fruit, and sold for 15s per barrel. This season I have not enough for my own use, the fruit has been continually dropping, and few specimens now remain upon the trees."

From A. V. Prouty Esq., of Kalamazoo:

"Apples are not abundant this season, owing as I suppose to the cold weather in May last. We have never been troubled with the Borer in apple trees in this section of the State."

PLUMS

"Are abundant, not injured by the Curculio in the least. Trees not subject to the black wart or knot. I have observed that in Washtenaw County, plums are nearly all destroyed by Curculio.

PEARS

"Are very promising as to crop and thriftiness of the trees. The blight has never made its appearance here to my knowledge.

PEACHES

"Are scarce in Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Calhoun and Branch Counties. But as you go West and North into Cass, Berrien, Van Buren and Allegany Counties, there is a great abundance of them. The winter here being so severe (27° below zero 11th of January last) as to nearly destroy the trees.—Mildew or Yellows have not been prevalent in this section of the State.

CHERRIES

"Have been scarcely sufficient for the birds, as the choice varieties are not grown to a great extent as yet. Trees have suffered somewhat by the very warm weather in April, causing the sap to flow, and the severe cold of May, (as I suppose). My trees were also injured by the hot weather in July, Mercury 104° above zero, 11th July."

REPORT

OF C. GOODRICH, CHAIRMAN STATE FRUIT COMMITTEE FOR VERMONT, TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

SIR:—I expected until to-day, that Mr. Albert Chapman, of Middlebury, would attend your Convention, as a representative from our Committee.—Failing in sending a delegate, (unless Rev. Mr. Bingham may be present,) I shall send a few hasty notes.

Our Committee have called a State Fruit Convention, which I think may be well attended, on the 18th of October, at Montpelier, and hereafter we hope to be able to make a more satisfactory State report.

The past season has been a peculiar one. The past fall and winter were dry, so that all ordinary drains were last Spring useless. The quantity of rain from—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| First January to May, was, - - - - - | 3.81 |
| May, - - - - - | 2.74 |
| First June to August 6, - - - - - | 3.14 |
| August 6 to 14, - - - - - | 4.16 |

and since occasional showers.

This unprecedented drought, accompanied with uncommon heat, (the thermometer having been over 100° some days in succession), has greatly lessened the quantity of fruit, still there is a full average. Autumn and winter apples, although smaller than usual, have grown rapidly since the rain in August, and are ten days later than an average of seasons, compared with other garden and farm productions.

Of Peaches, we have none this season.

Of Plums, but few; the Washington and other delicate varieties, being injured by a very cold winter, while the Lombard, and all hardy sorts, are very abundant.

Of Grapes, we have large crops, and free from mildew.

Among well-known varieties of Apples—

The Yellow Harvest grows in great perfection, and is here our *best* early apple—first-rate in every respect.

The Sweet Bough—same for a sweet apple.

The Porter and Gravenstein have been recently introduced, but are becoming great favorites.

The Fameuse, Pomme de Nieve, or Snow Apple, is more cultivated than any other autumn apple—is an universal favorite—but even in Vermont it is greatly inferior to those grown in their native locale, (Montreal,) and ripens a month earlier.

The Rhode Island Greening, is a general favorite, especially for cooking—very hardy.

The Esopus Spitzenburgh, is much cultivated, but the fruit is apt to be spotted. It is a favorite apple, but not as well adapted to our climate as the Baldwin, which grows in great perfection, and is in every respect first-rate.

Roxbury Russet, first-rate.

Hubbardston's Nonsuch, first-rate.

Danver's Winter Sweet, first-rate.

The Newtown Pippin greatly varies. It is not suitable for general culture in our climate, and in the best locations the fruit depends much on the season. I have never before seen them as perfect after the hot dry summer which has injured our native northern apples.

The Pomme Gris a native of Montreal, is a favorite apple; and, though small, has no superior for high flavor. It grows quite as well here as in Lower Canada, where it is called the best apple grower, and would probably succeed well for the South.

The Bourassa, a native of Quebec, is another Canadian variety of high flavor—its greatest objection is, that it is liable to melt or shrivel in re-opening.

The Northern Spy has not yet fruited. Scions were introduced three years since, which have been extensively distributed. It has so far, in all situations, proved a very healthy, vigorous grower.

This list might be continued indefinitely, but that is sufficient for all practical purposes.

Another season we hope to present some native sorts.

But little attention has been given to Pears until a few years past, not enough to speak with confidence of many new varieties which promise well. Among our old trees, the White Doyenne, is one of the most common. It is hardy—produces very perfect fruit, and has never been subject to disease.

A report was also received from David Miller, Esq., of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, but as it embraced simply descriptions of well known varieties of fruits, and was of a nature which had been stricken out of their reports, the Secretary did not feel justified in inserting.

Communications empowering delegates from the Buffalo Horticultural Society, the Queens County Agricultural Society, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society were also received, but the Secretary does not think them of importance to benefit the public, and therefore they are not embodied in the proceedings.

JOHN A. KENNICOTT,
President N. A. Pomological Convention.

F. R. ELLIOTT, *Secretary.*

The Secretary, to whose superintendence was left the publishing of the foregoing proceedings, and as one of the Committee appointed to confer with the American Congress of Fruit Growers, begs leave to report, on the part of the Committee, the following, viz. :—

That said Committee, appointed by Convention, as per resolution of Dr. Wendell, presented themselves, through their Chairman, to the Congress. That after their object had been stated, the Congress immediately, and without hesitation, appointed a Committee of a like number to meet us in Conference.

That at such meeting there existed the utmost harmony and good feeling, and that without any dissension, the following preamble and resolutions were concocted, and agreed to upon the part of both Committees; afterward were introduced in order to the American Congress, and unanimously adopted :—

“The Committee appointed for the purpose of conferring with the Committee sent to this Congress, by the N. A. P. Convention, on the propriety and practicability of uniting, or consolidating the two associations, respectfully report :—

That finding that Committee fully convinced of the advantage in all respects, to the Country at large, and to the cause of Pomology, of having

NOTE.—The Secretary would acknowledge having received aid in making up this report of proceedings, from the report taken by Mr. W. H. BURR, for the “Syracuse Journal;” and begs leave also to remark, that while he has endeavored to be impartial, and deal honorably with all, in thus performing a task not especially desired, if he has erred, he trusts it will be rather ascribed to inability to perform the same, rather than, to any motives unpleasant to the mind.

but one National Convention of this kind, which should, if possible, embody all the talent and experience in the country as far as possible, a conviction which this Congress always firmly held, they had great pleasure and unanimity in immediately adopting the following resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That the two Conventions, known as the “North American Pomological Convention,” and as the “American Congress of Fruit Growers,” be hereby consolidated.

2. *Resolved*, That the consolidated Association shall hereafter be known as the “American Pomological Congress.”

3. *Resolved*, That the next session of the Pomological Congress be held at Cincinnati, in the autumn of 1850, and that the time be fixed by the President of this Congress, in conjunction with the President of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, and that notice of such meeting be given to all Horticultural and Pomological societies throughout the continent.

4. *Resolved*, That the meetings of this Congress, after the next session shall be held biennially, and that the meeting of 1852 be held at Philadelphia.



