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*Marshall P. Wilder*

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# ADDRESS

AT THE

## NINETEENTH SESSION

OF THE

# American Pomological Society

HELD IN PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

SEPT. 12, 13, 14, 1883.

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By MARSHALL P. WILDER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

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GENTLEMEN AND FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY :

“I STILL LIVE,” but I deeply regret a recent disability from which I may not recover in season to be present on this occasion, yet as you have so often declined to receive my resignation of the presidency of our association, and have provided a special officer of great ability to occupy the chair in case of my absence, I take it for granted that in this exigency you prefer, in the language of scripture, “a living dog to a dead lion,” and thus to retain me, not so much for what I now can do, as for what I have done for the objects you seek to promote.

Our constitution demands of its president an address, and I, therefore, will speak to you once more in regard to the interests and objects which it has to advance, and which I deem worthy of your attention.

This is the fourth time our Society has assembled in this goodly city at the invitation of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, to whom, in behalf of our own Association, and in my own behalf, I again present our grateful acknowledgments for its oft repeated courtesies to us, and especially, for its constant cooperation and aid during the lifetime of our Association.

Gladly, most gladly, do we accept of these hospitalities so generously tendered to us. Happy, most happy,

are we to be here once more in this time-honored city, so renowned for its schools of science, advanced civilization, and benefactions to mankind; here, at the birthplace of that immortal declaration of heaven-born principles of human right which gave to the world the first great free republic, the most progressive, prosperous and independent nation on the globe; here, where the first society was formed for the promotion of agriculture, and the first permanent horticultural society on this continent, both of which, we rejoice to know, are here today in a vigorous, green old age; here, where some of the first general efforts were made for the promotion of American pomology,—efforts which culminated in the establishment of this Society, and other similar institutions,—efforts whose merits throughout our immense domain, excite the wonder and admiration of the world. Here, too, were the homes of Bartram and Mease, Landreth and Buist, James, Brincklé, and Houghton, and other pioneers and cultivators, whose labors contributed very largely to the advancement of our cause, and whose names, in connection with those of other benefactors of our Society, will be held in grateful remembrance while the blessings of rural art, the charms of nature, and the golden fruits of summer and autumn shall gladden the sight and minister to the comfort and happiness of mankind.

These worthy men, like those others who laid the foundations of our national compact, have finished their labors and gone to receive their reward. But we

still live to carry out the noble designs which they originated, and thus to develop the blessings of human freedom and the wonderful resources of our land, and make it more and more worthy of the protection of an independent, enlightened, enterprising and prosperous people.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

We this day enter on the duties of another biennial term, and while I most heartily congratulate you upon the growth and prosperity of our Society in its beneficent influence,—on what it has accomplished and is still doing,—I most earnestly pray that our lives may be prolonged, our energies renewed, and our labors be crowned with continued success; but we cannot forget that death has again entered our ranks, and removed from our circle many old friends and worthy co-laborers of our cause.

During the interval since our last session, we have sustained greater losses of official and prominent associates than in any former like period in the history of our Society. In my former addresses I have endeavored to place in our records a reference to those who have been officially or otherwise actually engaged in promoting the objects of this Society, and now I have the melancholy duty of adding to that starred roll of worthy men the names of JAMES, VICK, BRYANT, SCHLEY, PEARCE, ARNOLD, JOHNSON,

HOOKEK, TRANSOU, and WARDER. In this list, we number seven Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Secretary, and a member of our Fruit Committee.

THOMAS POTTS JAMES, the first Treasurer of this Society, who held that office for twenty-seven years, died at his residence in Cambridge, Mass., at the ripe age of 79 years. His presence always cheered our meetings, and his gratuitous services and cordial coöperation in the promotion of science were heartily acknowledged and appreciated. He was widely known for his study of the vegetable kingdom, especially the mosses and lichens of our continent, the results of which he was preparing for publication at the time of his death. He was connected with many societies for the advancement of science in our land; was Professor of Botany to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; one of the Founders of the American Pomological Society; Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Member and Officer of the American Philosophical Society; Member of the Boston Society of Natural History, and of other kindred associations. In all the relations of life he was conscientiously devoted to whatever was committed to his care. In a word, he was a true friend, an upright man, and a Christian gentleman.

JAMES VICK, a former Secretary of our Society, died at his home in Rochester, New York, May 16, 1882, aged 64 years. No one has been more familiarly



known to American households as a seedsman, florist, and publisher of a magazine, than Mr. Vick. He was an Englishman by birth, but he came in youth to this country. He soon after entered the printing office of the *Genesee Farmer*, published by Luther Tucker, and was associated for a time as editor and proprietor of this and the *Cultivator*, at Albany. On the death of Andrew Jackson Downing, in 1852, he became the proprietor of the *Horticulturist*, and continued its publication under the able and successful editorship of our good friend, Patrick Barry, at Rochester. Mr. Vick was also at one time associated with the editorial department of the *Rural New Yorker*, but he was most widely known by his extensive seed trade, and by his *Illustrated Monthly*, circulating as it has through our broad land. No similar publication has become more popular, or has exerted a more powerful influence in creating and extending a love of flowers and plants, and no death in his line of business has been more generally or deeply deplored.

WILLIAM SCHLEY, for many years a Vice-President of this Society for the State of Georgia, died at Saratoga, N. Y., August 14, 1882. He was a native of Georgia, and adopted the profession of lawyer, in which he gained an eminence that gave him a seat on the bench. He always took a lively interest in fruit culture. He was early sent as a delegate to the American Pomological Society, and from that time was generally present at all of its meetings, except during the war,

ever manifesting a deep interest in its work. He was a gentleman much beloved by us, and specially noted and admired for his eminently social qualities, his winning grace of manner, his fine humor, sprightly, sparkling wit, and ever cheerful demeanor. He could have won political honors, and worn them gracefully and with distinction, had he desired to do so. He was a man of noble generosity and kind deeds, often cramping himself, by aiding others, and when a friend alluded to this trait he replied, "while by helping others I am made poor in purse, I am rich in happiness."

ARTHUR BRYANT, senior, a Vice-President of our Society, died at his residence, Princeton, Illinois, last March. Mr. Bryant was an educated man, in the true sense of that term, trained under the tutorship of his brother, William Cullen Bryant, with whom for a time he was associated on the *New York Evening Post*. He was a thorough scholar, eminent for his knowledge of the Greek language and of Botany, and for his love of the beautiful in nature. He was especially interested in the conservation of our forests, and in the planting of new ones, and had for a long course of years been a leading nurseryman in the West. He had been President of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, and was the senior member of our board of Vice-Presidents. He was also a frequent contributor to our public journals, and author of a book on Forest Trees for Shelter, Adornment and Profit. His decease is widely deplored, and has been appropriately noticed by the public press.

In his character we recognise the enterprise of one of the pioneers of American Horticulture, and the virtues of an enterprising, upright man.

EDWARD D. PEARCE, Vice-President for the State of Rhode Island, died at Providence during the present year. He was a man of clear intellect, sound practical sense and great force of character. He was fond of the science of agriculture, and in some departments of it was prominent, especially in the importation of blooded cattle. In the cultivation of both the smaller and larger fruits, he was for many years without a rival in his State. He contributed largely by official services and personal influence to the advancement of terracultural interests, and was often elected to offices of honor and trust in his State. Mr. Pearce possessed a genial nature, and was universally beloved and respected as a very useful man.

HENRY E. HOOKER, an old and valuable member, and for a time a member of the General Fruit Committee, died at Rochester, N. Y., April 12, 1883, fifty-nine years of age. He was prominently engaged in the nursery business, and by his enterprise, sagacity, and integrity, became well and favorably known throughout our country. He was always much interested in horticultural pursuits, and contributed by his labors and his pen largely to their advancement. He was much interested in the formation of societies for this purpose, and was Vice-President of the Western New York Horticultural Society at the time of his death. He was the intro-

ducer, or disseminator of several new and valuable fruits, among which may be named the Brighton Grape, now so universally appreciated for its excellence. He was everywhere respected for his sincerity, always acting according to his convictions of the right; modest and unassuming in manners and gentle in disposition, he was beloved by all who knew him.

CHARLES ARNOLD died at his residence in Paris, Ontario, on the 15th day of April last, aged 64 years. Mr. Arnold was for many years a Vice-President, and Chairman of the Fruit Committee for Canada West, of our Society. He was an Englishman, and came to Canada fifty years ago and here remained until his death. From a very early period in his life he manifested a great taste for horticultural pursuits, and for nearly forty years had been actively engaged in following his natural tastes.

Although not in early life an educated man, he found time during his busy life to become familiarly acquainted with many of the best writings of our time, especially those which in any way related to his favorite pursuits. He was a careful observer and eminently a practical man, speaking of what he knew rather than of what he conjectured. He often wrote clear and vigorous articles on the subject of cultivation. He has been for many years constantly engaged in the cross-fertilization of cereals and vegetables and other plants and fruits, with marked success. Of the latter he produced new varieties of the grape,

strawberry and raspberry, which are now considered very valuable.

In vegetables, his American Wonder Pea is every where highly esteemed, and at the time of his death he was actively engaged in experiments to improve the pea, potato and wheat. He was a man of great enthusiasm, with good judgment, and his loss is greatly to be deplored by us.

JOSEPH E. JOHNSON, our Vice-President and Chairman of the Fruit Committee for Utah, died at Tempe, Arizona, Dec. 17, 1882, aged sixty-two years. Mr. Johnson was a prominent leader in the Territory of Utah in various settlements, and did much to introduce fruits and flowers in the districts where he resided. He was a valuable member of our Society, being ever ready to advance its interests as far as was in his power. He originated many seedling fruits, such as peaches, apricots, grapes, etc., some of them being of promising local value, as may be seen by his reports to this Society. Mr. Johnson had recently removed from St. George, Utah, to Arizona, where he intended again to engage in gardening and the culture of the soil. He was a very enterprising and progressive man, and occupied many places of honor and trust among his people. He was the proprietor and editor of several newspapers and periodicals in his day, among which were the *Utah Pomologist and Gardener*, and by his botanical researches, discoveries and importations, he inspired a

taste for the beautiful in nature wherever he went. In a word, he was a man of unceasing labor, constitutionally a pioneer, and died working in the pioneer life.

B. F. TRANSOU, for the last ten years a Vice-President of our Society, and at one time Chairman of our Fruit Committee for Tennessee, died at his residence, near Humboldt, May 27, aged sixty-three years. He was born in North Carolina. In 1861 he removed to Gibson County, where he made a home enriched with fruits and beautified with flowers. He was a pioneer in the nursery business, Chairman of the West Tennessee Fruit Growers' Association, a member of other associations, and exerted extended and progressive influence in pomology and rural adornment. Mr. Transou was a man universally beloved in church and society, of winning manners, and faithful in all the relations of life. On the eventful morning when he was smitten down, while laboring in his rosary, God called, and he was removed to that better land where the leaf shall never wither, the flower never fade.

And now, while I am thus writing, there comes the sad intelligence of the decease of our beloved friend and associate, Dr. JOHN A. WARDER, Vice-President of our Society for the State of Ohio, who died on the 14th of July, aged seventy-one years. No death has occurred in this Society since that of Andrew Jackson Downing, which is more deeply or widely lamented.

He was born within the limits of Philadelphia, but

had from very early days a love for rural life. He accordingly moved to Ohio, and about thirty years ago purchased a farm at North Bend, a part of which was formerly President Harrison's. He was a student of nature, and especially devoted to scientific researches. He was a beloved physician in Cincinnati until his removal to his farm, but during this time he was closely interested in the organization and work of various scientific and educational associations.

He was a member of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society; Western Academy of Natural Science and Natural History; Ohio Wine Growers' Association; Ohio Medical College; many years President of the Ohio Pomological Society, now the Ohio State Horticultural Society; President of the American Forestry Association until its consolidation, last year, with the American Forestry Congress, and member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was much interested in landscape gardening and the improvement of our cemeteries. He was widely known as an author, editor and contributor to various literary and medical publications, among which we specially remember his works on American Pomology and American Forestry.

He was remarkably unselfish and generous, devoting his whole life for the good of others; was modest and unassuming, possessing fine social qualities, and his society was greatly enjoyed by all who knew him. He had been recently appointed by the Department

of Agriculture as Forestry Agent, for investigating the forest resources of our country, but was not permitted to enter on the work, for the Master called him home.

Would that I could stop here, but while I am closing this address there comes the sad announcement of the death of our beloved young friend HENRY B. ELLWANGER, son of our old and esteemed member, of Rochester, N. Y. He was only thirty-three years of age, and was a member of the time honored firm of Ellwanger & Barry, but was widely known for his popular work on *The Rose*, and for his careful classification of this queen of flowers, and his enterprising experiments in its hybridization. In the latter line of his studies he had already opened a new era in America, giving promise of equal or greater success with that attained by the most experienced masters of the old world. His book established his reputation both at home and abroad, and his late article on *Old and New Roses*, in the *Century Magazine*, added still further to it.

Mr. Ellwanger had been a constant attendant at our sessions for many years, and is well remembered as reporting at our last meeting for his father, then in Europe, on Foreign Fruits.

How mysterious this Providence! It is only six weeks, at this writing, since he was sitting by my side and expressing the great interest which he felt in the hybridization of the rose, and his hope that although



we may not be able to paint the lily, we may yet “add perfume to the rose.”

Mr. Ellwanger was of most amiable disposition and courteous manners, and a christian gentleman, having recently been invested with Deacon's Orders in the Episcopal Church. His death is universally and deeply deplored.

These and other friends have gone before us to that better land where we trust they are now partaking of fruits from the tree of life that perish not with their use. Thus one after another of our associates is passing away, and ere long all the founders of our Society will have joined the countless millions of the departed, but others will rise up and carry forward the designs which have been formed for the promotion of our cause. But let us not murmur or repine at the providence of God. This is the order of nature,—this the lot of all sublunary life —

Fruits have their time to ripen and fall,  
 Leaves have their time to wither and dry,  
 Man has his time to flourish and fade,  
 All must be cut by Time's ruthless blade.  
 But though the fruits of earth may all fail  
 And none be left to tell the sad tale,  
 Still there's a land of promise on high  
 Where fruits never fail, men never die.

## RULES OF POMOLOGY.

I have the pleasure to announce that during the present session, the Committee appointed at our last meeting, to prepare a Code of Rules in regard to the Nomenclature of Fruits, will present their report. This I have examined carefully, and I desire to say that it meets my entire approval, and I tender my sincere thanks to the Hon. Mr. Lyon, its chairman, and his associates, for the able and judicious manner in which they have discharged their duty.

In former addresses, I have spoken to you of the importance of the establishment of short, plain and proper rules, to govern the nomenclature and description of our fruits, and of our duty in regard to it; and I desire once more to enforce these opinions on a subject which I deem of imperative importance. Our Society has been foremost in the field of reform in this work, but there is much yet to be done. We should have a system of rules consistent with our science, regulated by common sense, and which shall avoid ostentatious, indecorous, inappropriate and superfluous names. Such a code your Committee have in hand, and I commend its adoption. Let us have no more Generals, Colonels, or Captains attached to the names of our fruits; no more Presidents, Governors or titled dignitaries; no more

Monarchs, Kings or Princes, no more Mammoths, Giants or Tom Thumbs; no more Nonsuches, Seek-no-furtherers, Ne plus ultras, Hog-pens, Sheep-noses, Big Bobs, Iron Clads, Legal Tenders, Sucker States, or Stump-the-Worlds. Let us have no more long, unpronounceable, irrelevant, high-flown, bombastic names to our fruits, and, if possible, let us dispense with the now confused terms of Belle, Beurre, Calebasse, Doyenne, Pearmain, Pippin, Seedling, Beauty, Favorite, and other like useless and improper titles to our fruits. The cases are very few where a single word will not form a better name for a fruit than two or more. Thus shall we establish a standard worthy of imitation by other nations, and I suggest that we ask the coöperation of all pomological and horticultural societies, in this and foreign countries, in carrying out this important reform.

As the first great national Pomological Society in origin, the representative of the most extensive and promising territory for fruit culture, of which we have any knowledge, it became our duty to lead in this good work. Let us continue it, and give to the world a system of nomenclature for our fruits which shall be worthy of the Society and the country,—a system pure and plain in its diction, pertinent and proper in its application, and which shall be an example, not only for fruits, but for other products of the earth, and save our Society and the nation from the disgrace of unmeaning, pretentious and nonsensical names, to the

most perfect, useful and beautiful productions of the soil the world has ever known.

Every year brings additional proof and confirmation of our predictions in regard to the wonderful progress and facilities for fruit culture in this western hemisphere. This impresses me more and more strongly with the duty of giving a right direction to one of the most important sanitary and benevolent industries of our land, and, as far as possible, controlling the recommendation of the host of new fruits, of little merit, which are being constantly brought to notice ; and while commending and disseminating all good varieties, let us, if possible, restrain the flooding of our country with those of inferior quality and little value. Let us use our utmost exertions to discourage and restrain the outrageous deceptions, which every returning season brings, by new fruits sent forth with the highest praises, as if superior to anything before known, but which in a few seasons are found no better than many old kinds, if as good. The plea of ignorance cannot be urged in extenuation of such practices, while the means of information are as accessible as they are now. Such deceptions no honest or honorable man would practise.

## PRODUCTION OF NEW FRUITS.

It is now more than thirty years since I first called the attention of this Society to the great importance of producing fruit from seed, in order to originate and obtain such varieties as might be adapted to the varied climate and sections of our ever-increasing and immense territory. And now, again, in fulfilment of my promise never to cease doing so, I beg to ratify and enforce what I have said in my former addresses.

It has long been known that varieties raised on our own soils, and in our own localities, are generally better suited to our various regions than those from foreign lands, and although we have some varieties from abroad of great excellence and wide adaptation, there are, comparatively, only a few out of the thousands of foreign kinds which we have proved in the last fifty years, that now remain in general cultivation. This fact is now generally acknowledged, and hence thousands of our pomologists are engaged in this most interesting, beautiful and praiseworthy employment of raising American kinds. Formerly the accessions to our catalogue were from the Old World; now they are mostly of American origin, and so it will continue to be in future time. These are benefactions not only to our country, but the world. He that originates a new and valuable fruit, suited to general cultivation, is as

much a benefactor of mankind as he who discovers a new principle in science which increases the comfort and happiness of our race.

Natural fertilization, as I have told you before, unaided by the hand of man, is as old as creation, but the knowledge of manual fertilization, the ability of man to assist nature in the process of improvement, seems to have been mostly withheld from us until the present age. Wonderful is this fact, but it is not more so than the unlimited extent to which it may be carried by the genius and sagacity of him who would coöperate with nature in this enchanting labor.

Strange, indeed, that this art should have been held in suspense for so many ages, not until our own time to be brought into practical use. But, thanks to the Disposer of all temporal concerns, it has now come as the harbinger of a progress which is to revolutionize and improve the fruits of the earth while time shall last. Thanks, too, to Knight, Herbert, Lindley, Darwin, Gray, and other teachers of later time, for the lessons of wisdom, which have encouraged us to prosecute this most noble work.

The process of fecundation was known far back in the centuries of the past, but not for the production of new and improved varieties of plants. From the days of Pliny, to the present time, the custom of suspending the blossoms of the date palm over the trusses of the fruit-bearing trees, was known to be necessary for the production of fruit. So Tourne-

fort and Linnaeus understood the sexual order of plants; but we have no facts to show, so far as I know, that either of these writers had a knowledge that the crossing of different species and varieties would produce from the seed a new variety which would possess in a greater or less degree the characteristics of the parent plants, and it is doubtful whether Duhamel, Van Mons, or Noisette, was acquainted with this wonderful art for the indefinite improvement of our fruits.

This is the art that doth help nature, and great as has been the progress in our time, it is but as the dawn of that day when every section of our varied climes shall be furnished with products of the earth as well adapted to each as the people who inhabit them. How grand the acquisitions of this art in our own day! It is only about fifty years since Mr. Hovey, myself, or other cultivators of our country, attempted the hybridization of fruits or flowers. Now the knowledge of this art is as well understood as the cultivation of the soil. These are the means provided by an all-wise Providence for the improvement of our fruits. Would that Prince, Downing, Brincklé, and those other pioneers who have gone before us, could now witness the amazing advances which have resulted from their labors in this cause. O that I could live to participate a little longer in the glorious harvest which is to be gathered from the influence of this art in improving the fruits of our land. These are benefactions which you will leave for the generations that are to follow you — memorials of

your love of nature, of home and kindred, which shall live in the hearts of grateful millions, long after you shall have been sleeping in the dust.

Thus have I spoken for a long course of years of the importance of this branch of our duty. Thus would I preach while life shall last. *“Plant the most mature and perfect seeds of the most hardy, vigorous and valuable varieties, and as a shorter process, insuring more certain and happy results, cross and hybridize our finest kinds for still greater excellence.”* And should my muse be able to reach you from the spirit land, she would, as with telephonic voice, still chant in your ears the same old song,—

Plant the best seeds of every good fruit,  
 Good fruits to raise, some lands to suit;  
 Fruits which shall live, their bounties to shed,  
 On millions of souls, when you shall be dead.  
 These are creations that do the world good,  
 Treasures and pleasures, with health in your food;  
 Pleasures which leave in the mem'ry no sting,  
 No grief on the soul, no stain on Time's wing.



## IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIETY.

With the establishment of the American Pomological Society, a new era dawned on the science of fruit culture on this continent. The spirit that animated Van Mons, Knight, Noisette, Esperen, Bivort, and other savants of Europe, reached our shore and spread its benign influence across our continent; and wherever the school, the church, or the foot of American civilization has found a home, there our fruit-culture has been seen to follow as the handmaid of refinement, health and domestic comfort. This enterprise has now awakened a zeal through our borders which was never before known in the annals of pomological science. Strange, indeed, that it should be left for us of this new world to establish the first great National Society for its promotion—a society which embraces in its organization the largest area, and the most varied climate and soil of the globe, where almost all fruits may be grown with success.

The progress of fruit culture in our land is indeed wonderful. To encourage this by a cordial spirit of intercourse, to elicit and disseminate correct information in regard to the fruits of our vast territory, and to direct, control and advance this most important branch of terraculture, were the objects in view; and thus to establish a pomology for America which shall endure

long after its founders shall have passed from the earth.

Few are aware of the powerful influences which this association has exerted and is exercising on the pomology of our country. Its organization covers our entire continent, and its importance and usefulness is everywhere, both at home and abroad, highly appreciated and acknowledged. No event in the history of pomological science during the present century has been fraught with such beneficent results as those which have transpired since the founding of our association. This institution, now in the thirty-fifth year of its existence, embracing as it does official representatives of the best experience from every section of our immense domain, all working in harmony to carry out our work to higher and higher degrees of improvement, has assumed proportions which are not only national but continental, and embraces in its organization the largest territory and the most wonderful facilities for fruit culture on the globe.

Other societies for the promotion of pomology have been formed and are powerful adjuncts — other societies will rise up to aid us in the future, but the American Pomological Society will continue to be, as it has been in the past, the acknowledged authority of pomology for this western hemisphere.

So may it be, so may it spread its benign influences over our whole continent, until every man, woman and child shall participate in its enjoyments, and all realize the blessings of paradise regained on earth.

With a territory unequalled in extent and in variety of soil and climate for the growth of fruits, our Society naturally became the leader and conservator of this great interest on this continent. And thus, in the order of Providence, it has been the herald, the protector and almoner of one of the most important departments of our industries. Nor is this all: Its example and its formula of business proceedings and catalogue of fruits, have been adopted not only by our American societies but by the nations of the old world. Well and worthily has it fulfilled the design of its founders. Long may it live to carry on and perfect its glorious mission.

Such, gentlemen, is the magnitude of our association, and on you and those who are to succeed you, depends the great duty of fostering and perpetuating it through the generations of all coming time.

PROTECT, PRESERVE and PERPETUATE it, and your names shall be enrolled as benefactors of our land and of mankind!









