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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

American Pomological Society,

HELD IN

THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, SEPTEMBER 14, 1858.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. P. Wilder

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

1858.



ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN :—

I rise to announce the opening of the Seventh Session of our National Association, and to perform a service which its Constitution devolves upon your presiding officer.

Ten years have completed their course since the organization of the AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, in this commercial emporium. Some who were active in its formation, have fulfilled their earthly mission, and now rest from their labors. DOWNING, and others have passed away; but their names are still fragrant in our memories; and their works still live. May they live forever to enlighten and bless their fellow men.

While we deplore the loss of such men, who devoted their time and genius to the cultivation of Rural Taste, and the progress of the Rural Arts, we would acknowledge with profound gratitude our obligations to the Supreme Arbiter of life, for the

preservation of the health and life of so many of the founders of this Institution. He, by his kind Providence, has permitted many of us once more to assemble for the advancement of the earliest pursuit of man.

As the original law of labor required man "to dress and keep the garden," so his primitive food was the fruit of its trees — of *all* its trees save one; and the Divine Beneficence, when it declared, "I have given you every tree in which is fruit yielding seed," with inimitable wisdom and love, provided for the extension of this art, and the multiplication of its blessings through every period of time.

With such a Divine charter — with such a rule of duty, is it not a little surprising that the honor should have been reserved for the present century, for our own time and country, of giving birth to the first Pomological Society in the world? But from this fact let us not infer, that our ancestors and the generations which preceded them, did little or nothing to improve this part of their inheritance.

The representative arts of ancient Egypt, contain delineations of delicious fruits afterwards cultivated in the hanging gardens of Nineveh, the interval lands of Babylon, in the vales and on the mountains round about Jerusalem. In Greece, Homer sung of the cultivation of fruit-trees; Xenophon, Cato, and Virgil mention among other varieties of fruit, the pear; and Pliny in enumerating the fruits cultivated at Rome, mentions twenty-two sorts of the apple, eight kinds of the cherry, more than thirty

kinds of pears; a large number of plums and grapes, to which the soil of Italy was then, and is still specially adapted. He also speaks of several other kinds of fruits, and of the perfection which the art had attained in his period; but it is a significant comment on that perfection, when he adds, that it was then, a long time since the production of any new variety.

To trace the progress of pomology, is not our present purpose. Suffice it to say, this science having reposed in the gardens of the monasteries during the dark ages, came forth from those cloisters with modern civilization and the Reformation; and has now attained an elevated position among the most refined and honorable of human pursuits.

Associations for the promotion of Pomology, as a distinct science, date back only to the middle of the present century. It was previously embraced in the objects of Horticultural and Agricultural Associations, and has been greatly advanced by the individual enterprise of a Quintinye, Duhamel, Van Mons, Knight, and other scientific men, both in Europe and America. But the efficient cause of our progress is the power of voluntary association — the great engine which propels the car of modern improvement. Its wonder-working agency appears in the action of mind on mind, not only in the intercourse of individual pomologists, but in the various periodicals devoted to this object. Among these, our country can boast of some more

enduring and voluminous than any that can be found in Europe.

Since the organization of this Society in 1848, its example has been followed by the establishment of the British Pomological Society in London; the Société Pomologique de Belge in Brussels; and of other similar organizations located at almost every point of our Union—all working in harmony for the attainment of the most reliable and important results. These are aggregating the experience of the wisest and best cultivators, creating a taste for this useful and divinely appointed art, proving what varieties are suited to each particular locality; and what, to general cultivation. These through the influence of the Horticultural and Agricultural press, are introducing fruit culture, from the Canadas to Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, bringing its numberless enjoyments within the means of the most humble cottager, and multiplying the luxuries which crown the tables of the opulent. The large, luxurious and abundant fruits in the State of California, in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, already rival, and, in many instances, surpass those of our older States, indeed of the countries of Europe.

Upon these favorable omens I may well congratulate you; as I certainly do, on the cheering prospects before us. Pomology is yet in its infancy. We have but just entered the field which we are to cultivate, and gathered a few first fruits of the bountiful harvest, which encourages and is to re-

ward our endeavors. But, when we reflect upon the success which has attended the growth of particular fruits upon a few acres, under judicious cultivation,—upon the obstacles over which science and practical skill have already triumphed,—upon the industry, intelligence and enterprise of our people, which has been and will continue to be more and more devoted to this branch of terraculture—upon the vast amount of our territory equally well adapted to fruit culture as that now in use—and upon the ever increasing demand for the same,—who can predict the future importance of this science? who can foretell the extent to which it will hereafter contribute to personal and domestic comfort, to national wealth and prosperity? And can any man doubt whether the assembling of these rural comforts around the family mansion does not strengthen local attachments and multiply the joys of home, whether they promote industrial happiness, the love of kindred and country, and sweeten the social relations of life?

Such, gentlemen, is the trust which Providence has confided to your care. Such is the magnitude of your mission. By your instrumentality, an extensive and laudable spirit of enterprise has been awakened through our own and foreign lands. The transactions of our last session have been published generally by the periodical press of the United States. They were also translated and published in some of the languages of Europe; and your Catalogue has already become a standard in

American Pomology. This it should be your object, at each biennial session, to revise, perfect, and promulgate, as the best means of preventing those numerous impositions and frauds which, we regret to say, have been practised upon our fellow citizens by adventurous speculators or ignorant and unscrupulous venders, who sometimes use recommendations, hastily and injudiciously given, or surreptitiously obtained, greatly to the injury of the purchaser and fruit-grower, to the dealer and nurseryman, and to the cause of pomology. Let us therefore exercise increased caution as individuals and as associates, how we lend our influence to encourage the dissemination of new fruits with extravagant pretensions; sovereign remedies for diseases; patented nostrums for the destruction of insects; worthless fertilizers; and secret arts of cultivation.

There are many other topics most intimately connected with our common cause. On some of these subjects it was my intention to have addressed you; but they will no doubt, be discussed during the present sessions of the Society; and then I may be indulged with the privilege of expressing a personal opinion. I have resolved, however, to devote the few remaining moments which it will be proper for me to occupy in this opening address, to a some suggestions relative to the PEAR, one of the most important and delicious of our fruits.

The question has recently been raised and very extensively discussed in our public journals, "*Can pears be grown for the market*" at a profit?

In the progress of this discussion, those who have espoused the negative, we fear, have undesignedly, perhaps, awakened distrust as to the success and profit of pear culture in our country; a distrust which, if not removed, may prove injurious to this branch of pomology. Many able, and to my mind conclusive replies have been called forth, affirming both the feasibility and the profit of pear-growing. In consequence of personal devotion to this art, and my official relation to you, I have been requested by members of this Society and other cultivators, to submit the results of my study, observation and experience on this subject.

It is obvious that a similar question may be raised in regard to any other branch of terra-culture. Where one cultivator succeeds, another fails. Why? Not because Providence does not fulfil the Divine promise, "that seed time and harvest shall not fail," but because in instances of failure the conditions of success are not complied with. Perhaps there was a want of intelligence, of judicious cultivation, or of that vigilance which takes hold of an enterprise, with a determination to surmount all obstacles and to "hold on." Some pomologists have justly ascribed to us in Massachusetts what they have been pleased to denominate a "*mania*" for pear-growing. They have also made honorable mention of the success which had attended it. But it should

be borne in mind, that neither the soil or the climate of our Commonwealth, are as well adapted to this fruit as those of most of the other States of the Union ; and if the fruit-growers in this region have acquired any such celebrity, it is to be ascribed to their intelligence, indefatigable industry and perseverance, more than to any other cause.

When the Almighty commanded man to replenish the earth and subdue it, he also gave him dominion over nature, and required him to subordinate her to his use. The cultivator should not wait idly for nature to work out what God intended him to perform. He should learn to work in harmony with nature. He should plant trees with a proper regard to soil, sorts and the arts of judicious cultivation, and should never leave them, as is often the case, to a fatal predestination, believing they were foreordained to take care of themselves. He should not be discouraged by a single failure, but should persevere —

“ Work on and win ; —

Preach no desponding faithless view ;

Whate'er he wills, his WILL may do.

Work moves and molds the mightiest birth,

And grasps the destinies of earth !”

We do not deny that vicissitudes attend the cultivation of fruit-trees, as well as forest trees, and other vegetable products. How often a severe winter proves injurious to the peaches of the North, to the oranges of the South. Within the knowledge of many present, our hardiest varieties of

the apple, as well as of the pear, have been injured by sudden revulsions of climate. But these should no more discourage the pomologist, than the occasional failure of the farmer's crop by frost, drought, or other causes, should prevent his planting the succeeding spring. Without detracting from the merit of any American pomologist, it is our firm persuasion that the failures which have occurred in pear-growing, whether on the quince or its own stock, are attributable to improper soil and varieties, to injudicious treatment, or to neglect of cultivation. Hence, these failures, wherever they exist, show the importance of the prominent object of this association, which is to develop and promulgate the scientific principles and the personal experience, that shall reduce the number of such failures, and in the end, prevent their occurrence.

One of the chief causes of failure is the non-adaptation of the tree to the locality. Some varieties are constitutionally delicate and feeble; and, of course, more subject than others to climatic influences. They may be of exquisite flavor, but are not well adapted to general cultivation. These would only be grown by amateurs in favorable positions. Others are robust, vigorous, hardy as the oak, resisting the extremes of cold and heat, of tempest and storm, retaining their luxuriant and persistent foliage to the end of the season. Such are the Fulton and Mc Laughlin, of Maine — the Buffum, the Abbott and Knights' Seedling, of Rhode

Island—the Andrews, Harvard, and Meriam of Massachusetts—the Dallas and the Howell, of Connecticut—the Lawrence, Onondaga and Sheldon, of New York—the Brandywine, and Kingsessing, of Pennsylvania—the Urbaniste, Beurre d'Anjou, Doyenne, Boussock, Vicar of Winkfield, St. Michael Archange, Nouveau Poiteau, and last but not least, the Bartlett, of European origin. The latter which was introduced into Dorchester before the beginning of the present century, and which has borne regular crops of delicious fruit for more than fifty years, is still vigorous, hardy, and prolific.

True, these are not all of exquisite flavor; but all of them have valuable qualities. With a proper knowledge of the art of ripening, they are very useful sorts and generally acceptable to the public; and if amateurs who are sometimes in danger of being too fastidious, could obtain no other, they would pronounce them most excellent kinds. Not that we would detract from the cultivated taste which finds its gratification in the delicious Seckel, but as a national organization, we are sacredly bound to consider the wants of the million—the facility and practicability of supplying them. Give us pears! the most exquisite sorts, where we can grow them—but by all means give us, pears! pears for ourselves, for our families, for the millions who are about us, and who are to come after us!

Another cause of failure in the growth of the pear tree, has been a competition for increasing the

number of varieties, rather than a satisfaction with a few of known worth and excellence. Within the last twenty-five years, this passion has led to large importations of trees from foreign countries, of the characteristics and habits of which we have not had sufficient knowledge. During this period, many of those on our list for *general cultivation* have been obtained; but to secure these, and satisfy ourselves of their excellence, we have been obliged to grow a multitude of kinds, which have proved inferior and worthless. More than one hundred now stand on our list of rejected sorts; and the Committee on this class of fruits, I understand, are prepared to recommend the expulsion of a still greater number.

Without discouraging the introduction from Europe of new varieties for trial, in the hope of obtaining valuable sorts, there can be no doubt that a prejudice has been created in this country against the cultivation of the pear, by the importation of trees not thoroughly proved by foreign nurserymen, which in far too many instances, have not here answered the recommendations given of them at home. This has been still farther augmented by the frequent heating and great consequent injury of such trees on the voyage; by their sale here at auction to inexperienced cultivators, who purchase a medley of worthless sorts and damaged trees, in expectation of valuable fruit.

The diseases of the pear like those of most other fruits, result from definable causes. For many of these, we have already acquired sufficient knowl-

edge to apply the appropriate remedies; and it is to be hoped, with the progress of science, we shall ere long, be able to prevent even the blight, that fearful destroyer of this tree in some localities.

Much has been said against the longevity of the pear tree, particularly when grafted on the quince. In reference to the latter point I need only reaffirm the sentiments contained in my last address, and subsequently corroborated by the most distinguished cultivators.* One of these remarks, "My best trees are on the quince. The best fruits of our exhibitions are from the quince stock, and our profits in fruit raising are from the same source. Let others have their own way in stating experiments based upon improper or bad management, drawing from these unsatisfactory conclusions. By a judicious selection of varieties and proper cultivation we shall fill our shelves, and walk among our well-shaped pyramids with a blessing for the unknown genius who first tried the quince as a stock for the pear, and made, really, in pear cultivation, the same revolution as steam in travelling." Another gentleman, the editor of our oldest horticultural journal sustains these declarations, adding, "The attempts to write down the pear upon the quince stock are examples among a thousand others, in the literature of gardening, to assail some of the soundest principles of physiological science and practical art." The additional experience during the last biennial term confirms my previous con-

*See Transaction of Sixth Session 1856, p. 22.

victions of the truthfulness of these statements ; and such is believed to be the sentiment of the best pomologists throughout the country.

Of the longevity of the pear upon its own stock, there can be no doubt. In favorable circumstances, the pear outlives most other fruit-bearing trees. Witness the old pear trees on the bleak and rock-bound coast of Puritan New England ; on the site of the old Dutch Colony ; at the mouth and along the banks of the Hudson ; in the territory of the ancient French Colony about Detroit, and in other places too numerous to be named — trees some of which have flourished from the settlement of the country, and which are at this very moment bending with the weight of their golden fruit.

PROFIT OF PEAR CULTURE.

But the immediate question under consideration is, "Can pears be grown at a profit?" We advocate the affirmative, premising that the condition of success to which we have already referred must be complied with. This enquiry has been satisfactorily answered by pomologists, some of whom I am happy to recognize in this assembly, yet the responsive facts and arguments deserve to be embodied and published under the sanction of this National Assembly. To a record of these as collated from various authorities, so far as they are confirmed by personal observation and experience, I now invite your attention.

The Fruit Growers Society of Western New York, composed of gentlemen of deserved integrity

and celebrity, some of whom are on this floor, and competent to defend their report, furnish the following instances from that section of the State.

Three White Doyenne Pear trees, owned by Mr. Phinney, of Canandaigua, one of them small, produces annually fifty to sixty dollars worth of fine fruit.

A tree of the same variety, owned by Judge Howell, of same place, seventy years of age, has not failed of a good crop for forty years, averaging for the last twenty years, twenty bushels annually, and sold on the tree at sixty dollars per year. This tree has produced for the New York market three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars worth of pears.

Three large trees owned by Judge Taylor, of same kind, yielded in 1854, eleven barrels, and sold for one hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

A young orchard, owned by Mr. Chapin, of four hundred trees, eight years from planting, which produced in 1853, fifteen barrels, selling in New York for four hundred and fifty dollars, and in 1854, fifty barrels, yielding him one thousand dollars."

Similar results have been realised in the State of Massachusetts.

William Bacon, of Roxbury, has about one acre devoted to the pear. The oldest trees were planted eighteen years since, but more than half within a few years. From two trees, the Dix and Beurre Diel, he has realized more than one hundred dollars a year, and for the whole crop, over one thousand dollars a year.

John Gordon, of Brighton, has three and one-fourth acres in his pear orchard. This was commenced in 1841, there being only eight trees on the ground. There are now twelve hundred trees, planted in various years, more than one-half of which since 1854. The amount received for his crop from that date to the present, has been from

five to six hundred dollars a year, but he remarks, "If I had confined myself to a judicious selection of varieties, it would now bring me two thousand dollars per year."

Wm. R. Austin, of Dorchester, Treasurer of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, has an orchard of between five and six hundred pear trees, mostly on the quince root. These trees are about twelve years of age. One hundred are Louise bonne d' Jersey's. They commenced bearing about three years after planting, and have borne regular crops ever since. They are very healthy, and only eight of the whole number have died since the orchard was commenced. No account of the crops were kept until the year 1851, but Mr. Austin's sales for the next six years, amounted to three thousand four hundred and eight dollars.

The Messrs. Hovey's of Cambridge, have a very large collection of bearing pear trees. From two rows, two hundred and ten trees, grafted on the quince, the crop has amounted, some years, to twenty-five barrels.

John Henshaw, of Cambridge, planted about an acre of land principally with pears on the quince. On the fifth year thereafter, he gathered one hundred and twenty bushels of pears, seventy bushels of which, he sold at five to six dollars per bushel.

A Buffum pear tree at Worcester, belonging to Mr. Earle, yields annually from thirty to forty dollars worth of pears. Mr. Pond, of the same city, planted in 1850 three hundred and fifty Bartlett pear trees, one year old from the bud. In 1857 he sold from these trees fifty-bushels of pears, at five dollars per bushel, or two hundred and fifty dollars for the crop.

Similar instances of success, in these and in other States, might be multiplied, if time would permit, to prove the age, health, and profit of the pear tree. So deep has the conviction of this truth become,

and so uniform the success, that instead of planting trees as in former times, by the single tree or the dozen, cultivators now plant orchards of hundreds and thousands, in firm and reasonable expectation of large income.

Such facts are conclusive, and ought to rectify the false theories which have been advanced on this subject. But it may be objected, that these are instances of success developed by accidental adaptation of kinds, of soil or climate; that such results are neither uniform or common; in a word, that there are counter facts sufficient to justify an opposite conclusion, and therefore to sustain the opinion that pears cannot be made a reliable and profitable crop.

While I distinctly recognize here as in every other branch of terra-culture, what are called occasional revulsions of nature, resulting from sudden alternations of temperature and other causes, yet I desire publicly to record as the result of long observation and experience, that I have never known an instance of failure, which on examination was not attributable to an improper selection of varieties, or to injudicious cultivation. In harmony with this judgment is believed to be the sentiment of the best pomologists in this country. Therefore I am constrained to regard success as the general law of cultivation in this, as in every other department of this science; as truly with the pear as with the apple.

What if we have instanced but a few cases, and named but a few varieties? They illustrate our

argument. If the Bartlett in Massachusetts, the Buffum in Rhode Island, and sorts equally successful in other states, have not failed of an annual crop from twenty-five to fifty years, surely the product of the pear is not only as reliable as any other crop, but even more so. To these and other approved sorts which we now possess, we are constantly making additions by hybridization and other arts. What if at this time there are but a limited number of such varieties, enterprise and experience are rapidly multiplying them, and it is the particular province of this Society to dispense them through our land.

What if pomology, as a science, is comparatively of recent date; what if our knowledge of vegetable physiology generally is very limited? What if the various sorts of fruit-trees do require different systems of pruning and cultivation, facts now generally conceded by experienced men? The laws which govern such treatment, and which, with the ordinary exceptions, ensure a crop, are as certain as any other scientific principles. Our mission is to investigate these laws, to settle the characteristics of each variety; to ascertain what soil is best adapted for supplying its appropriate food; to learn how and when it should be pruned, and to discover the best method of cultivation.

Thus far we have spoken principally of the pear. But much of what we have said is equally applicable to other fruits. The great duty which we

would enforce, and which every pomologist owes to himself and to this science is —

“To study culture, and with artful toil,
 To till and fertilize the stubborn soil ;
 To give dissimilar, yet fruitful lands,
 The tree, the vine, the plant that each demands.”

Our reasoning applies peculiarly to the grape. I hail with great pleasure the wide-spread interest of cultivators in producing new and choice varieties of this fruit, which, ere long, will put us in possession of kinds not inferior to the best European sorts. On this subject I had hoped to enlarge at this time, and to have shown its importance, as a means of increasing individual and national wealth. The time is within the recollection of some present when our first native grapes were brought into cultivation, as the Catawba and Isabella. These are now so common in some sections, that any man, if he chooses, may sit beneath his own vine and pluck its rich clusters. Honor to the memory of those who introduced these valuable sorts! Success to those who are multiplying new and improved varieties from them! We know gentlemen in Massachusetts who have thousands of seedlings under cultivation. The same may be said of other sections of our fair land; and the day is fast approaching when from our eastern to our western shores, the tops and slopes of our hills shall be covered with clusters richer than those of Eschol, and, like them, giving assurance of a land of promise. May that day soon come, when our markets

shall vie with those of Italy, Sicily and other grape-growing countries, where this luscious fruit is not only a luxury for the opulent, but the food of the humblest peasant.

What an inviting field of labor does the science of pomology present! Our country vast in extent, containing every variety of soil and climate, fast filling up with an intelligent and enterprising population, is already a pioneer in other useful arts, and is doubtless destined to sustain a corresponding superiority in the cultivation of fruit. The cause we seek to advance, will ere long adorn her hills and vales with the choicest fruits of earth, and tune to grateful lays, the voice of happy millions who shall succeed us. These blessings were designed to please the eye and gratify the taste, to multiply the comforts and elevate the social and moral condition of man. Fruits were the primitive food of our first parents, and for aught we know, their only food in Paradise. Fruits have too often been considered the condiments and not the necessaries of life — but “man does not live by bread alone,” — and the more we use them, the more we shall approach a refined and healthful temperament both of body and of mind. It is, therefore, our duty, as benefactors of our race, to develop these wonderful resources of our land, and to increase them to their utmost extent.

And how delightful is the employment of the pomologist, going forth among his well-trained trees:

“To visit how they prosper, bud and bloom.”

His love is always young and fresh, ever approaching them with keener relish and increased affection. They, in return, recompensing every kind attention, "clap their hands for joy," and like those flowers of Paradise touched by the fair hand of Eve, *more gladly grow.*

This art is second to no other in rank, in utility, and pleasure. No calling is more consonant with the refinement and happiness of a rational being; none better calculated to develop the purest sentiments of our moral nature. "The garden," says Lord Bacon, "is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handy-works." "Nothing," said the immortal Webster, "is too polished to see its beauty, nothing too refined to be capable of its enjoyment. It attracts, gratifies and delights all. It is a constant field where all sexes and ages, where every degree of taste and refinement may find opportunity for gratification." So thought Cyrus of Persia, when he boasted that he planted his trees with his own hands; so Pliny, when he gloried that a Roman cherry was named in honor of his family; So Solomon, guided by Divine wisdom, made for himself as a source of his purest pleasure, "gardens and orchards, and planted trees of all kinds of fruits." So Dioclesian, sated with the highest honors of regal power, when he wrote to Maximian, "Were you to come to Salona and see the fruits which I cultivate with my own hands, you would no longer talk to me of empire." So say we and

all others, who, having retired from the thoroughfares of the busy mart, and from the conflicts of political ambition, have drunk from these pure fountains of social joy, and eaten these ambrosial fruits of rural life.

No wonder then that the praises of this pursuit have been celebrated in prose and verse ; from the humblest peasant to the highest potentate ; from the heathen mythologist to the sweet Psalmist of Israel.

From scenes in the garden, from Eden to Gethsemane, have been drawn the most exalted and sublime conceptions, the most sacred and divine communings that have ever moved the human heart. This sentiment animates the breast of childhood, grows with our growth, and strengthens with advancing years :

“ Maintains its hold with such unfailling sway,
We feel it e'en in age, and at our latest day.”

The good Wilberforce, long after he was unable to walk, was drawn daily in his carriage to his favorite grounds, where he could commune with his Creator and admire the beauty and glory of his works. “ I am,” said he, “ very fond of the garden. The corn and vegetables I look upon as the bounties of Providence, but the fruits and flowers as his smile.”

The more I investigate the laws of vegetable physiology, the more I am filled with wonder and reverence at the benevolent provisions of nature —

at the instructive lessons which she teaches. Our trees — from the opening bud to the golden harvest, — from the laying off of their gay autumnal livery, and during their rest in winter's shroud, waiting a resurrection to a new and superior life, are all eloquent preachers, proclaiming to our inmost soul :

“The hand that made us is Divine.”

Taught by their counsels, who does not admire the wisdom, perfection and beauty of this fair creation! *The tiny bud*, encased in coats of mail so that the rude blasts may not visit it too roughly, rivalling in its mechanism the human eye, and destined to perpetuate its own species distinctive as the soul of man! — *the enamelled blossom*, unfolding her virgin bosom to the warm embrace of vernal air, bespangling the orchard with starry spray scarcely less beautiful than the glittering host above, dancing in rainbow hues, and flinging on the breeze a fragrance richer than the spices of Ceylon's Isles; sweet harbinger of bountiful harvest! — *the luscious fruits*, God's best gift to man, save woman! — the melting *pear*, rough or polished rind, with sweetest honied flavor — the burnished *apple*, tempting human taste from the mother of our race to her last fair daughter — the royal *grape*, clustering beneath its bower of green, making glad the heart of man — the brilliant *cherry*, suffused with loveliest tints of rose and white or dyed in deepest incarnadine — the vel-

vet *peach*, mantled with beauty's softest blush and vieing with the oriency of the morning—the delicious *plum*, veiled with silvery bloom, over robes of azure, purple, or cloth of vegetable gold! But what imagination can conceive, what pencil sketch, the changing hues, the varied magnificence and glory, when Pomona pours from her overflowing lap, the ripened treasures of the year! These, all these, are original designs, such as the genius of a Corregio, a Claude Lorraine, and the oldest masters could only imitate.

Here, are creations, originally pronounced *very good*. Here, are inexhaustible sources of pleasure, beauties which fade only to appear again. Here “life flows pure, the heart more calmly beats.” Here, like the foliage and fruit falling from trees of favorite care, the true pomologist, after a well spent day, lies down to rest in the hope of a fairer to-morrow—in the glorious hope of partaking of the fruit of that tree, which “yieldeth its fruit every month, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.”

GENTLEMEN — Having held the office of President of this Society, eight years out of the ten of its existence, I have not the presumption to believe, that I ought to occupy the chair for a longer term, especially to the exclusion of gentlemen more competent to discharge the duties of this high trust. At the last election I accepted the office at your urgent solicitation, and with the hope that I might extend

the influence and increase the utility of our association. Something has been done, but other official duties have claimed my services, and I have not accomplished all that I anticipated. With many thanks for your kind co-operation and support, and with the assurance that I have no higher ambition than to be associated with you in a cause so honorable and so hopeful for the general welfare, I beg you will accept my resignation, and allow me the privilege of a co-worker in whatever may promote American Pomology.

MARSHALL P. WILDER.

