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# CATALOGUE

AND DESCRIPTION OF

WIER'S NEW

Hardy Seedling Cherries,

—AND—

OTHER FRUITS AND PLANTS,

GROWN FROM SEED,

BY DANIEL B. WIER,

PROPRIETOR OF THE LACON NURSERIES,

LACON, MARSHALL CO., ILLINOIS.

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*STREATOR, ILLINOIS:*

STREATOR MONITOR PRINTING HOUSE.

1879.



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# WIER'S

## New Hardy Seedling Cherries.

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*Being Selections from over Six Thousand Varieties, Grown from the Seeds of all the Hardest kinds, by D. B. Wier, Lacon, Marshall Co., Ill.*

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Twenty years ago I became greatly interested in Cherries, and on reading the subject up, I found that there were but two or three varieties that could be depended upon to stand our winters here in the Northwestern states and give regular crops, and these had fruit very poor in quality.

So I determined to see if I could not obtain new varieties from the seeds of our hardest sorts, that would prove superior to the old varieties. I selected the seeds, and grew thousands of seedlings. These were very carefully selected and planted in orchard, and thousands of seedlings were budded or grafted into young bearing trees, and I may safely say, that during the past sixteen years I have fruited as many as six thousand cherries, grown from the seed here. This has been a great undertaking, involving great labor and expense. The result has been all that I could wish, far surpassing my expectations; and, farther, to test their hardiness, productiveness, and to have them at hand for comparison I procured all the varieties classed as hardy, and a large number of those varieties classed as sweet or tender varieties, and grew them in the same condition as I did my seedlings.

With these facilities for study, comparison and judging, I may be excused for claiming that I know something of Cherries in this climate; and that I am entirely competent to pass upon the value of a Cherry for the Northwest,

in every particular; and that having such a great number to choose from—as will be seen farther on—my recommendation should have weight.

The cherry is a perishable fruit, and I have taken considerable pains to have prominent Horticulturists here to see them in fruit. Some few kindly came on invitations; but as the season of ripe Cherries is the busiest of the year to the fruit men, I was forced to excuse the presence of a great many, whose opinions would have been of great value; but, I would say, that in describing these new fruits and giving their value, it will be my aim to be entirely impartial. I have been in no haste in offering them to the public; they have been most carefully studied during the past eight to fourteen years, and the range of climatic changes during that period has been so great, that I have concluded that a fruit that could endure all the severe drouths, heats, wets and colds that have been measured out to us during the fourteen years just past, will do to plant, with a certainty that it will withstand anything we can ever look for here.

In deciding upon the value of these Cherries for this climate, all points, good or bad, that I could discover, have been given full consideration, and as many of these are known to but few, it becomes necessary to name a few of the most prominent.

Early in my studies of the Cherry I found that all of the late varieties were "wormy," or infested by the larvæ of the "plum curculio; so much so here as to be generally worthless for home use or market; and that the early ones were not. By late I mean those ripening after the "Early Richmond," ("Early May,") ("Early Kentish.") By early those ripening with it or earlier. It has been a rare thing during sixteen years' observation to find these early cherries injured in this way; while the late ones, like "English Morello," and "Late Duke," are, as a rule, entirely worthless. Therefore I have given no variety notice or number, unless early enough to escape this trouble. Further, I have found that the next greatest enemy to the cherry in this climate, is "Leaf Blight." This is a parasitic fungus developing in, and preying upon, the inner cellular structure of the leaves—exactly similar to "Leaf Blight" in the pear, and producing the same results, to-wit:—a premature falling of the leaves, thereby causing a general disorganization of the tree. Its outward appearance may be known by small round brick-red blotches on the leaves; while those of the pear are of a sooty-black. Its superinducing causes are extreme wet, sultry Junes and Julys. I have discovered no remedy or palliation; therefore, all varieties liable to its attacks should be discarded. If it were not for this disease, we could fruit many of the tender, sweet varieties here successfully. It is that which kills—not the cold winters. The Junes of 1876, 1877 and 1878 having been very wet here, and the July of 1875, gave me great opportunities to observe the effects of this disease; yea, several thousand dollars' worth. Last year, 1878, gave the culmination of this trouble. I lost three hundred thousand cherry seedlings with it entirely, and it finished up nearly all my sweet cherries, and many of what I thought were my most valuable seedlings. Some varieties are not subject to it, injuriously; notably, the "English Mo-



ello," "Plumstone Morello," Common Morello," and the "Early Richmond," not generally this far north; and among sweet varieties the "Early Purple Guigne," and "Gov. Wood" but very little.

Therefore, the reader will see that during the past sixteen years I have had the coldest, hottest, dryest and wettest seasons ever known in which to test my new cherries. Can I be wrong in saying that such as have withstood all these better than any known varieties, are very valuable? And then, when you know, as I do, that these seedlings surpass all other hardy varieties in quality, productiveness and earliness, you will be willing to "boom" with me.

In the following descriptions the "Early Richmond" is made the standard of comparison, to-wit:—Early means earlier than it; late, later; large, larger; small, smaller; healthy, healthier in foliage, etc. It will also be made the standard as to vigor of tree; but it must be remembered, it is perhaps the most vigorous or fastest grower of the "Morello" family of cherries, the "Louis Philippe" only equaling it. The "English Morello" is the hardiest variety in fruit bud of all, except some of my seedlings. Its fruit buds have never been killed by the cold in my experience; but a variety with fruit buds no hardier than the "Early Richmond" may be very valuable, its buds never having been entirely killed, there always being enough left for a fair crop of fruit.

**A NEW DEPARTURE.**—PLEASE TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE, That the Names, Descriptions and Numbers of these Cherries are COPY-RIGHTED, and are therefore my individual and exclusive property, and anyone infringing on my rights, under the Copy right laws of the United States will be prosecuted. I will offer no excuses for offering these fruits under this protection, simply saying that those who do not wish them under this restriction, need not buy them.

**TO NURSERYMEN:**—I have decided to offer a full list of my new cherries to the leading nurserymen of each state, and will sell to the one making the best offer exclusively for his state my rights under my copy-right. This will give him the exclusive right to advertise and publish these names and descriptions in the territory he may have bought; in this way affording him ample protection in his venture, for no one can publish those names in catalogue or advertise them in any way unless under license from me, without laying himself liable to full measure of damages, any more than he could any other copy-righted matter? What farther protection can one ask? This plan has not been adopted on the spur of a moment, but has been under serious consideration for years, and the opinion of many of the best lawyers in the country has been obtained, and without exception they have given their opinion that the National Copy-right laws would give me ample and complete protection in these Names, Descriptions and Numbers. Farther, the stock of these new cherries is to this date entirely within my possession and control, and nurserymen buying of me territorial rights under my rights, will have the supreme advantage of having a full share of each and every variety, and can grow a stock for sale before the market is occupied and prices reduced.

**MY PLAN** for the dissemination of these varieties to those who buy territo-

rial rights, will be as follows: The nominal price for each state, including all my rights under my copyright, will be fifty dollars. No state right will be sold for less than this amount. Bids will be received and recorded in regular order, and then notice will be sent to all bidding for the same territory, the amount of the highest bid, and so on until sale is made; I claiming the right to reject all bids for specified territory, but here pledge myself to keep on file all bids in good faith for the inspection of parties interested, and to send certified copies of the same to those who wish to make farther bids; and to sell all the states and territories to those making the highest and best bids—except the state of Illinois—with all my rights and privileges, a fair and equal divide of all the stock on hand at a reasonable price, and the same share in any other of my seedling cherries that have not yet been tested, of which I have growing many hundreds, and of course the accruing benefits of my advertisements, which will contain a list of the names of all who have bought rights, for their protection and mine. The price of trees, 1 to 4 years old, to those having territorial rights, will be 50 cents per tree, and the same price per 12 buds or grafts: and I would say here that I have been very unfortunate in growing a stock of these trees, owing to the "Leaf Blight" on the buds and stocks for the past 3 years; otherwise I would have had a large stock of them now ready for the market. To others, who do not buy territorial rights, and who may wish to have the best of these new varieties, I will sell them trees, buds or grafts at the price of \$1 per tree, or the same for 12 buds or grafts, packed so to reach their destination in good condition, or to be replaced, **WITHOUT NAME OR NUMBER**, and not less than 3 varieties, to one person, 6 for \$5; 12 for \$10. In this way all can have these choice fruits, and still leave the purchaser of rights under the copy-right, full protection.

To give the reader some idea of the great care used in selecting out the few varieties herein named from the great mass in fruit, I will give my manner of doing it: They were planted—the seedlings—in orchard, 10 by 12 feet apart, in 4 plats; the second year 2 buds or grafts of some desirable variety—mostly "Early Richmond" or "English Morello"—were inserted in each tree, and were so grown, as near as could be to form a head—half seedling and half the variety grafted in. This not only gave me a profitable orchard for fruit, but also the standard varieties at hand for comparison. When the fruit began to ripen I took with me two impartial persons, and visited every tree in regular rotation, each agreeing in the start to give no variety notice, unless we found it **EQUAL THE "EARLY RICHMOND" IN ALL RESPECTS AND TO SURPASS IT IN AT LEAST ONE**. When such a variety was found we gave it a mark (x) on the south side of the tree; if very fine, two marks (xx); if beyond all comparison, better than ever before seen, three marks (xxx). A variety considered worthy of one or more marks (x) was given a number, and all its qualities, with its row and number in the row, recorded in a book. This book is therefore a key to the whole orchard, from its first fruiting to date, with all its peculiarities, growth, diseases, earliness, lateness, flavor and size of fruit, its crop each year, and all pertaining to it, especially health of foliage, and the amount of "wormy"

fruit. "By their works shall you know them." This book gives them in a fair and impartial manner; it has made NO MISTAKES but what TIME has RIGHTED.

I have been at great trouble to mature a plan, by which I could place these cherries before the public, so as to give them a complete idea and knowledge of them. I can think of no better plan than to give their complete record made during the fruiting season of 1868. This was made out with the tree and fruit before us, and of course includes a summary of all the acquired knowledge of former seasons, and then gives the select list of the few varieties that I now offer to the public, under name and number. In the first list the designating numbers alone will be given and their qualities marked (x) as before explained.

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*A Complete List of D. B. Wier's New Hardy Seedling Cherries,  
with their Standing up to July 1st, 1879.*

In these descriptions the "Early Richmond" is taken as the standard in all particulars, to-wit:—early means ripening with it; earlier by 5 days, means that much earlier than it; 5 days late means that much later; small, smaller than it; large, larger; etc. And, as I have found none lighter in color than the "Early Richmond," light red will mean its color; red, a shade darker, etc.:

No. 1. Large, fine, dark red; 3 days early; quality excellent; tart; tree entirely hardy; medium as to growth; very healthy; fruit buds hardy\*; unproductive.

No. 2. x x Dark red; small; very good; rich; tart; foliage healthy; tree and fruit bud hardy; moderately vigorous.

No. 3. x x x No finer fruit ever grew, and if the tree was vigorous and foliage free from "Leaf Blight," it would head this list as BEST OF ALL cherries; yet too low an estimate must not be placed upon it, as the original tree is yet alive, and in fair condition; bore fruit this season (1879), while a great many "Early Richmond" trees in its immediate vicinity are now dead from "Leaf Blight;" and hundreds of years may pass and not bring us three wet Junes in succession. Fruit medium; heart shaped; black; 10 days early; in quality, when fully ripe, equaling the finest of the dark-colored sweet cherries, combining all the desirable qualities for kitchen or table; flesh firm, and in quality so rich that it has hung upon the tree for a full month after being fully ripe without decaying or dropping, during as bad a season for rot as we ever had, and while other varieties not so rich were rotting by the bushel. Pit small; flesh firm, at first rich sub-acid, but becoming very rich and sweet. Tree a slender short-jointed, moderate grower, entirely hardy when in health in tree and fruit. Bud bearing after the thermometer had sank to 28o dg. below zero. Enormously

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\*This term means in all descriptions as hardy as the buds of "Early Richmond;" tender, not so hardy as it, etc.

productive; should have high, dry, light soil and an airy situation: will undoubtedly prove of great value on such a soil farther north.

No. 4. x x Black; 3 days early; medium; very good. Tree and fruit bud entirely hardy; very productive; tree quite slow and not entirely healthy.

No. 5. x Of questionable value. Will probably be discarded.

No. 6. x Some seasons has been very fine. A fine, large light-red cherry, but needs farther trial.

No. 7. x x Small black; 6 days early; rich acid; very productive. Tree a fine, strong grower, entirely hardy and healthy. This fruit only lacks in size from being first-class.

No. 8. x x Dark bright red; large, rich sub-acid at first, but becoming very sweet and rich; very productive. Tree upright and hardy; foliage not entirely free from "Leaf Blight," but safely so. Fruit buds not hardy, about equal to those of seedling peaches, will be of the greatest value wherever peaches can be grown.

No. 9. Discarded.

No. 10. Discarded.

No. 11. x x x One of the finest of cherries. Fruit above medium; light and sub-acid at first, very good, but as it matures growing darker, firmer, richer, sweeter until it is at last a very dark bright-red, and one of the sweetest and most delicious of cherries. Three days early; hangs on the tree for a long period after being fully ripe, without any rot. Tree hardy, foliage entirely free from disease, a vigorous and strong grower in orchard; vigorous but straggling in nursery. It is not without fault in tree, but the fruit is so fine and crops so abundant (enormous I might say) that it will be greatly sought after. Fruit buds may be classed as not quite hardy, though in fruit this year, 1879, sparingly. This tree will puzzle the pomologist who attempts to classify it. It has the wood of the Morello, the leaf of the sweets, and with Duke-like fruit, and with other characteristics entirely its own.

No. 12. x x x Fruit medium size, almost black, stem long, pit large, 4 days early, and very productive. Tree medium, entirely hardy and healthy; foliage always fine; tree a beautiful grower in nursery. The fruit is very good, almost best, and very handsome.

No. 13. x x Very dark red, medium size, round, rich, mild. Stem very long. Tree healthy, hardy, and foliage good: upright.

No. 14. x x Lost.

No. 15. x x Early dark red, rich. Tree good and hardy. Fruit buds not hardy.

No. 16. Early, dark, mild, sub-acid. Tree slow and foliage healthy.

No. 17. x x Very early, probably the earliest of all. Fruit dark red,

small, very sweet, rich and good. Tree a slow grower, entirely healthy and hardy. Fruit buds hardy. This variety may be of great value. As it stands in a very poor part of the orchard, with nearly all of its neighbors dead around it, it has not had a fair show. Farther trial may give it a high place.

No. 18. x x Large, bright red, good, early. The same remark applied to 17 will apply to this, though 18 is now dead.

No. 19. x x This variety has only been seen in fruit but once, when it showed remarkable good qualities. Large, dark red, rich, sub-acid, and very productive. The original tree was all headed with "Early Richmond," except a small branch of the seedling near the ground, this was broken off. I have it now started from root cuttings,

No. 20. x x Black, early, good. Tree hardy; also fruit buds.

No. 21 x x Black, sweet, good; not quite early enough. Tree very fine and hardy. Fruit buds medium hardy.

No. 22. x Small, dark-red fruit, sub-acid, juicy, tender. Tree hardy and foliage good. Fruit buds hardy; very productive.

No. 23. x x Very early, bright red. Fruit very good. Tree poor; dwarfish but hardy and healthy.

No. 24. x x Bright dark red; early; good. Hardy in tree and fruit bud. Foliage entirely healthy. Tree very spreading and open. Unique.

No. 25, x x Fruit large, dark red, early, and very good. Tree very upright; not quite hardy in tree or fruit bud.

No. 26. x Large, dark red; very good; early. Tree poor.

No. 27. x x Large, dark red, good, mild, and rich. Stem very long. Tree hardy. Foliage poor.

No. 28. x x Large, dark red, early, very good, and very productive. Foliage very good. Tree hardy; drooping.

No. 29. x x x Undoubtedly the most valuable of all cherries for the Northwest for market and home use. Fruit dark bright-red, a little larger and 6 to 8 days earlier than the "Early Richmond," and the tree almost exactly similar in general appearance. Leaves a little more serrate. Entirely healthy and hardy. Enormously productive. The original tree stands among a fine cluster of "Early Richmond," (in fact, half of its head is "Early Richmond") and I may safely say that it (No. 29) has produced during the last 10 years eight times as much fruit as any "Early Richmond" tree in the orchard. It has had no extra care whatever. This variety will, in time, supersede all other sour cherries of its season. Its fine size, color, richness, earliness, firmness, and great productiveness, with entire hardiness of tree, perfect health of foliage, and ease of propagation, will make it THE CHERRY both for North and South. The fruit is a brisk, pleasant acid, entirely without the intense sourness of the "English Morello," EASILY SWEETENED; i. e. requiring less

sugar even than the "Early Richmond" to render it palatable. Pit small. Fruit buds entirely hardy; i. e. as hardy as any cherry. Fruit globular, stem long, adhering quite firmly to the fruit, and ripening very evenly and quickly after coloring, and hangs on the tree for weeks without becoming soft or rotting. We have made a specialty of canning cherries—varieties separately—and we have found No. 29 without peer or approach for this purpose. Perhaps a little too tart to eat from the tree for some; yet none appear to tire of eating it. I have never as yet detected a *curculio* larvæ or "worm" in the fruit. In fact I have been tempted to send out this one cherry and discard all others.

No. 30 x x and No. 31 are very promising dark red cherries ripening with "Early Richmond." Trees of the "Duke" habit. Trees very different, but fruit almost exactly the same. So far as yet observed, they are among the very best of their season. Tree and foliage entirely healthy and beautiful.

No. 32. x x Early, dark red, above medium, rich, mild, sub-acid, and enormously productive. Tree a strong grower, entirely healthy and hardy.

No. 33. x x Same every way as the last, only the fruit is heart-shaped and a shade larger.

No. 34 x x A small, dark-red, heart-shaped "Morello. Rich, mild, 3 days early, and very productive. Fruit adhering very slightly to the stem; at last dropping. No rot; no worms. Tree vigorous; drooping.

No. 35. x Dark red, early, hardy, healthy, good, and delicate.

No. 36. x x Dark red, (black,) heart-shaped, rich, sweet, and very good. Tree healthy and upright.

No. 37 x x Fruit large, dark red, early, good or very good.

No. 38. x x Fruit large, dark red, early. Tree upright and fine; one of the very best.

No. 39. x x Large, bright red, a little late. Tree very dwarfish; healthy.

No. 40 x A "Morello" fruit medium, black; very sweet for a "Morello." Tree moderately vigorous, very productive, and entirely healthy and hardy.

No 41. x x x Very dark red. Fruit medium; very good, if not best. Entirely hardy in tree and fruit bud; very productive.

No. 42. x x Bright, dark red; medium; very good or best. Tree and fruit buds entirely hardy and healthy; a fine grower. The sweetest of all the Kentish family.

No. 43. x x Fine, large, bright red, early. Tree and foliage fine and hardy.

No. 44. x x Dark red; medium; very good. Tree a fine grower; hardy and healthy.

No. 45. Fruit exactly same as "Early Richmond," only richer, and a

fine, bright, dark red; tree also. Very productive seasons that the "Early Richmond."

Now, dear reader, I have given you this long list, principally to show you the great care and nice discrimination it has been necessary to use in selecting out these new varieties from THOUSANDS. Each and every variety in this list has been carefully studied, season after season, from 8 to 12 years. Take the last 6, from 40 to 45; each and every one of these cherries would have created a profound sensation among fruit growers 10 years ago. Now, from these 45 new cherries, I propose to select for you, with my best judgment, the THREE BEST, the six next best, and the third best. I only wish I could give task to the 10 best pomologists in the country. Not that I think they could do it better than I have done. I know that they could not do it a thousandth part as well; for no man, nor ten men, nor a hundred men in this western country has had the varied experience with the cherry that I have had; but, because the responsibility is greater than I like to bear. I have remarked before that I have abundant material to select from, and material, better by far, than the world has ever seen before. So, if there are mistakes made, they will be those of my judgment, with such assistance as I could bring to bear on the subject near home. It is of course now necessary to give these bantlings of mine names. In doing this I shall honor myself, and my cherries, by naming them after leading horticulturists of the west, the noble living and the honored dead. I shall offer no excuse for taking this privilege with the names of the "jolly old boys" yet with us. They know I was always "up to tricks." To those who have "gone before," if they could see me, from that unknown shore, as I pen these lines, they would know my heart was right.

I claim under the Copy-Right Laws of the United States, the following Names, Numbers, and Descriptions, and also the numbers and descriptions given before in this publication, as names original with me, and of my authorship, as names applied and used in designating cherries, and as names given to cherries grown by me from seed, and also the following sentences and designations, to-wit: "Wier's New Cherries," "Wier's New Hardy Seedling Cherries," "Wier's Seedling Cherries," "D. B. Wier's New Cherries," "D. B. Wier's New Hardy Seedling Cherries," "D. B. Wier's Seedling Cherries." All persons are hereby warned against using these names, numbers and designations in a manner contrary to the spirit of said copy-right laws and my rights under the same, unless authorized to do so by me.

D. B. WIER,

Lacon, Marshall Co., State of Illinois, July 10th, 1879.

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### *Wier's New Hardy Seedling Cherries--List No. 1.*

Three best recommended for general planting everywhere:

No. 29. NORTHWEST. I am absolutely confident that this cherry is possessed of more good points and qualities than any other. It is offered as the Bright Particular Star of my collection and knowledge. For its description and all those that follow, see descriptive list under original numbers.

No. 11. GALUSHA. Is offered as the finest, hardy, dessert cherry. (By hardy I mean a cherry that can be successfully grown in the climate of these western states.) I cannot recommend it to succeed much farther north than this.

No. 12. BRYANT, (for Arthur Bryant, sr.) a little hardier than the last in tree and fruit bud, and earlier. Also offered as a fine dessert fruit. In tree most beautiful.

NOTES NOS. 11 and 12. are placed in this leading list for their sterling qualities as dessert fruit. No. 29 Northwest, should and does completely fill any list for its season: but these ripening in immediate succession and being of such extraordinary quality as hardy cherries, I thought it best to admit them.

#### LIST NO. 2.

Excuse us for this list. It includes all of my new cherries that have received the highest mark of merit (xxx), except those named in the first list. Even No. 29 only holds over them one or two points in a hundred, and, as none of these cherries have been tested outside of the one orchard, the great future may find its cherries in this list. Please consider each and every one of them AWAY AHEAD of any known cherries in this climate. I will try and give the essential points in which they slightly fall below No. 29. I say slightly and mean it. No. 3, for instance, occupied for 6 years the proud position now held by No. 29, but it failed in foliage AFTER THREE SUCCESSIVE WET JUNE-Centuries may pass before we again have three successive wet Junes!

No. 3. FLAGG. (Formerly "Wier's Early Kentish.") Named after the late Hon. Willard C. Flagg, be that we all were proud to love and honor. May this cherry be known as long as his good example and good works, and trusting that it will always do honor to the name of our dear friend and co-worker, I leave it with you. See description in main list.

No. 7. MCAFEE. (In honor of my dear friend, the late Prof. H. H. McAfee.) As before remarked this fruit lacks only in size.

No. 8. MAY QUEEN. The first of all my seedlings to fruit, and it has ripened earlier than any other; but it only averages 4 days early. Were its fruit buds as hardy as No. 29 or "English Morello" it would take the highest place. No fruit can be more valuable than it where the peach buds stand the winters. I recommend it highly for the Michigan "Peach Belt." It gave some fruit this season, 1879.

No. 38. OVERMAN. (Dedicated to the memory of Cyrus R. Overman.) A fruit of very great promise.

No. 41. HULL. (After Dr. E. H. Hull, of Alton, Ill., in whose death western horticulture has lost its brightest ornament, and from whose patient scientific investigations we have gained some of our most valuable practical knowledge.) This fruit, so far, shows no fruit.

No. 42. MCWHARTON. (In honor of my good friend, Tyler McWharten,



of Mercer Co., Ill.) This cherry, like its name sake, will be found in every particular worthy of your confidence. Year by year its record ends with "sweetest of all."

This ends a most difficult task. I am not satisfied with this selection of 6 for second best, nor would I be if I worked at it a month, simply because, that among the 45 now described and about 20 more to receive public notice next year, there are 18 to 20 that are, as far as I can now see, exactly as good. The future alone can decide between them. Some of these I will now name:

No. 2. STARR. (After James E. Starr, of Madison Co., because it is good, small, brisk, sharp, fiery, red, healthy, hardy, exceedingly productive, but "not noisy.")

No. 4. HUGGINS. (After the late Jonathan Huggins, of Macoupin. While Uncle Jonathan was alive he was always with us.) This,—his namesake—alway fruits. I think it will prove a good thing away north.

No. 15. PHOENIX. (This fruit received very high praise by F. K. Phoenix, of Bloomington, Ill., so I give it his name.) It is exactly the same shape, size, tree and color of the "English Morello," but ripening 8 days earlier, and is equally productive after not too severe winters. It gave some fruit this year. 1879. There is no richer, brisk, sub-acid cherry, and when fully ripe not to sour for table use.

No. 17. EARLE. (For my good friend, Parker Earle, Esq., of Cobden, Ill.) Parker has always been considered to have a very good taste as to fruit, and I offer this for his criticism. Like its namesake, it is, I think, too far south to shine like a star of the first magnitude, but it will do. Its proper place will, I think, be found on high, dry soils north.

No. 24. MINKLER. (For A. G. Minkler, Sprie Grove, Kendall Co.) Like his well known apple this tree spreads itself. Like its namesake, a good, honest cherry, it does all it can.

No. 28. HAMMOND. (There is a little fellow away over on the banks of the Mississippi, nearly out of this state, at Warsaw. A. C. Hammond is the man. I hope this cherry will prove worthy of his name. There can be no doubt as to the value of this cherry.

No. 30. DOUGLASS. (After Robert Douglass, of Waukegan.) Here is trouble again. To be forced to go way up into northeast corner of the state and drag out so modest a man as Uncle Robert, and name one of my best cherries after him, is too bad. But it had to be done so as to get a name for No. 31, for it would be an outrage to separate these two names! Why not so name it? "Give a dog a bad name, etc." But I do not propose to do that thing for this cherry.

No. 31. WHITNEY. (For A. R. Whitney, of Franklin Grove, Lee Co.) This cherry, like its namesake, cannot speak for itself. "It don't have to." So I leave it where Whitney loves to be—under the care of The Douglass.

The following stand on equal footing every way with those named. Who

will judge between them? I cannot. I shall therefore only name them for the present:

- No. 32. DUNLAP. (M. L. Dunlap, Champaign.)
- No. 33. COCHRAN. (G. W. Cochran, Blue Island.)
- No. 35. BALDWIN. (Hon. Elmer Baldwin, Farm Ridge.)
- No. 36. CROW. (James Crow, Crystal Lake.)
- No. 37. TURNER. (Prof. J. B. Turner, Jacksonville.)
- No. 40. BOURLAND. (B. L. T. Bourland, Peoria.)
- No. 41. STEWART. (Dr. J. T. Stewart, Peoria.)
- No. 43. EMERY. [H. D. Emery, Chicago.]
- No. 44. PERIAM. [Jonathan Periam, Chicago.]
- No. 45. SMITH. [Miss Emma A. Smith, Peoria.]

I will reiterate that these cherries are recommended for that region known as the western states. To planters in other parts of the Union, I would say that they will all succeed wherever the "Early Richmond" and "English Morello" do. Where the "Heart and Bigareau" [sweet] families succeed they will be found of value for canning and market, and several of them among the best for the table. They have mostly all been fruited only on their own roots, and it is altogether probable that budding or grafting them on other roots will cause a difference, generally for the better.

The stock of trees now on hand of any variety, from the cause before mentioned, is necessarily small; but a fair start has been made with all, and a large amount of stock (buds) of the best can be supplied at once.

CAUTION.—Our grand old Kemricott said, in his last inaugural, in 1861: "A high head is not a safe head." I have certainly found it so in my experience with ALL my cherries. With cherries of my own growth and planting, I have had no cases of "sun scald" on the south side of the trunk (killing of the bark on the south side of the tree by heat in summer or winter,) for I have grown for my own use no trees with high heads. I want my cherry trees to branch from the ground up like a young evergreen. If I was planting a cherry orchard for money, I would select none other than well branched one-year-old trees, and shorten in each branch one-half. Trees of my varieties treated in this way, I can warrant to stand. With high heads some of them may "sun scald." A high, dry, rather poor soil I have found always best for the cherry.

NOVELTIES.—The following new and valuable fruits and trees have been tested, and are now in propagation. I will sell the whole stock or shares.

#### WIER'S NEW WEEPING SILVER LEAF MAPLE.

A fine grower, entirely hardy, and so far as can now be judged, as pendulous as the well-known Common Weeping Willow; and grown the same, i. e., it does not need grafting.

#### NEW BLACK CAP RASPBERRY.

SOLID.—This, as its name indicates, is solid, firm. It is a little larger, earlier, less bloom, hardier, and equally as productive as the Mammoth Clus-

ter, sweeter, not so rank-flavored. The fruit is VERY FIRM. I may safely say that it can be shipped, in good condition, double the distance of any other Black Cap. Quality good.

TWO NEW THORNLESS BLACK CAP RASPBERRIES.

MOLLIE AND EMMA.—These are very similar in fruit, but very distinct in cane. They fruited two years, and prove so far, earlier and better than Davisson's Thornless fruit. The same size.

WIER'S EARLY PROLIFIC BLACKBERRY.

This with me has proven hardier than any other named blackberry, Snyder not excepted. Very productive. Fruit medium, but very even in size, long, and best of all in quality. This has shown no rust.

WIER'S DWARF PROLIFIC BLACKBERRY.

A fine, round, late, very productive, giving a full and perfect crop this year, which no other variety does. The hardiest of all. This, if I know blackberries, will be quite an acquisition. It only grows two to two and a half feet high. It don't pull your hat off, nor tear your shirt.

A RARE CHANCE.

I am in need of a thoroughly-posted, energetic man or men, with from \$3,000 to \$20,000 cash capital, as partner or partners in my nursery business, and to take a share in these and other new fruits, trees and plants. To the right man, I can insure a rare business investment. Correspondence solicited.

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*Testimonials.*

I could give hundreds of testimonials as to the value of these new fruits, and to my knowledge of horticulture; and of this climate, and what will succeed here, but have concluded to only offer the following, from the great number on file in my office. As I have the honor of the personal acquaintance of nearly every nurseryman and prominent fruit grower in the United States, I do not consider a great number of testimonials necessary. The following, from venerable Arthur Bryant, Sr., of Princeton, Ill., is to the point, with the exception that he, inadvertently no doubt, does not give any prominence to the first great point claimed for these cherries, to-wit:—that they are hardy and can be successfully grown in this climate. This must be the fact, or the trees would not have been there for our venerable friend to see:

From ARTHUR BRYANT, Sr., Princeton, Ill.: "At the invitation of Mr. Wier, I went on the 7th of June, 1878, to test his new 'Morello' cherries. His cherry orchard, consisting of several hundred trees, I found, as might be expected from a lot of seedlings planted out for trial, in all styles, from the unhealthy, the unproductive and those with indifferent fruit, to those which were quite the reverse. Of the varieties tested, No 3 was of superior flavor, dark color, two week earlier than "Early Richmond," with healthy foliage. The fruit was mostly gone, but the tree had evidently borne a full crop. No 7 was of dark color, 7 to 9 days earlier than "Early Richmond," and productive. The flavor of this was good, but not rich. No. 11 was a cherry of the best flavor—too sweet for cooking, but well suited to table use; the tree healthy and productive. No. 12 was early, of superior quality; the tree healthy and productive. No. 29 was of dark color, early, and as Mr. Wier assured me, of superior quality for cooking; the tree very productive and healthy. There were other varieties we intended to examine, but the investigation was cut short by heavy and continued rain. As the result of the examination, I hesitate not to say, that in my opinion, Mr Wier is quite right in claiming that his best

varieties are a great improvement on any cherry of the "Morello" type hitherto known. Nos. 3 and 11 I think may be a substitute for the "Duke" and "Maz-zard" varieties which so generally fail in the soils of the west. Mr. Wier deserves great credit for his exertions in the improvement of cherries; and it is to be hoped that his efforts will not be unremunerative."

From O. B. GALUSHA, Morris, Ill., July 15, 1868: "You ask me to give my unbiased judgment as to the value of your new seedling cherries for this climate. As to their value and adaptation to this climate there can be no doubt. For when visiting them in your orchard, I found all the different varieties you recommend in perfect health, and full of fruit. And this after a period of our worst western seasons; and, as the trees appeared to be 12 to 15 years old, they must be hardy in all ways or they could not have withstood the extremes of cold, heat, drouth and wet of the 15 years just past. Before visiting your orchard, I had expected, from reports, to find cherries of extra quality, as hardy cherries; but was greatly and agreeably surprised to find them in quality far surpassing my expectations—rivaling the finest sweet cherries for table use. I refer particularly to Nos. 3 and 11 and to several others nearly as good. I found in No. 29, as you had claimed, apparently a wonderful fruit. I could discover nothing in tree, fruit, or foliage but what would allow of its taking the highest rank among cherries, for the purposes you claim for it, to-wit: market, canning and home use. I found you had given none of these new varieties any extra care whatever; and all I saw in your seedling cherry orchard convinced me that you were honestly endeavoring to give our western country superior new cherries or none at all, and I must say that I am glad and proud of your great success."

At the regular monthly (June) meeting of the Lacon Horticultural Society, a full attendance being present, the fruit of No. 29, with other cherries of its season, were placed before them for comparison. After due tasting and comparison, the society, on motion of H. E. Rowley,

RESOLVED, That in D. B. Wier's new cherry No. 29, we are convinced he has obtained a fruit of the greatest value, for its size, fine dark color, rich, high flavor, great productiveness, fine growth and hardihood of tree and fruit bud for this climate.

A correct transcript of the records of this society.

CHAS. H. ROWLEY,  
Secretary

Lacon, Ill., June 9, 1879.

If any further testimonials are desired, I would refer to the following societies and persons, who have seen and tested these fruits: The Nurserymen's Association of the United States, at their meetings in Chicago, 1876 and 1877; Chas. Downing, Newbergh, N. Y.; P. Barry, Rochester, N. Y.; F. K. Phœnix, Bloomington, Ill.; O. M. Dewey, Rochester, N. Y.; Judge N. M. Laws, Lacon, Ill.; Capt. G. F. Wightman, C. E., Lacon, Ill.

W. C. Flagg, to whom I sent fruit of No. 3—FLAGG—the summer before his death, wrote: "I had always considered that the common "Morello" that hung on the tree for 6 weeks after people called it ripe, was the best of all cherries to my taste, but this surpasses it for richness, firmness and sweetness.—Prairie Farmer.

All correspondence should be addressed to

D. B. WIER,  
Lacon, Marshall Co., Ill.

N. B. I have also a very large and well grown general assortment of Nursery Stock, old and new varieties including about everything desirable for this climate, at very low rates.

D. B. WIER.



