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**SIMON'S PLUM.**



THE peach crop, of late years, has proved itself to be so uncertain, even in the most favored portions of Ontario, that fruit growers have become much dis-

couraged with peach culture. Many of us, who planted thousands of peach trees some ten or fifteen years ago, have now only hun' reds; for the yellows have destroyed them wholesale, and the winters have been so destructive of the fruit buds that there was no encouragement to replant.

This month we show our readers a colored plate of a fruit which promises to be a real acquisition to fruit growers, who, like us in Ontario, live on the Northern border of the peach belt, because it may take the place of the peach, at least in part. Though commonly called a plum, the fruit, especially when cooked, resembles that of the peach; and the tree itself, both in flower and foliage,

more properly belongs to the peach than to the plum family.

It is named "Simon's Plum" after Eugene Simon, French minister at Peking, who found it growing in North-eastern China, and forwarded it to his brother-in-law, Simon Louis, of Metz.

Prof. Budd says he first saw it bearing in the valley of the Moselle, in Eastern France; and being favorably impressed with it, he introduced it into Iowa for testing. He has found it to be as hardy as the Chicasaw plum, and recommends it for extended trial. Mr. A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines, fruited it last summer, and was much pleased with the quality of the fruit, which he considers well represented in our frontispiece. In our experimental grounds, we also have a half dozen trees which we believe will be an ornament, even if the fruit should not prove equal to expectations. If we can secure good stock, we hope to make arrangements for placing it on our list for distribution in the spring of 1890.