

PEAR CULTURE.

*An Essay prepared by REV. R. BURNET, D.D., of Pictou, N. S.,
and read at the Annual Meeting of the F. G. A., Jan., 1881.*

It may be known, perhaps, to the members of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, that I have had little or no experience as yet in the cultivation of the Pear, or, indeed, of any other variety of fruit in the Lower Provinces. My experience has been wholly obtained in Ontario, where I cultivated nearly three hundred varieties. I look forward, however, to the time, when I shall be able to speak with some degree of assurance on the best, hardiest, and most profitable varieties of this delicious fruit, which may be successfully cultivated in the Maritime Provinces.

From the casual inspection which I have been able to make of the few pear trees grown in this immediate section, I am persuaded that "Fire Blight," so disastrous and discouraging in the pear culture of the Upper Province, is very much modified in the County of Pictou. A pear tree in the front of my residence does not show the least symptom of the blight, and what is true with this tree of which I speak, is equally true of some few others with which I am acquainted. Should this prove to be fact in the "garden" of the Province, there will indeed be room for my congratulations to the members of your Association. Pear Blight is a terrible scourge in Ontario. So general, and terrible, has it been, that it has been a damper to the cultivation of the pear, even by the most enthusiastic of our pear growers. In New York State, near our border, the same thing is true. Many have left off growing pears on account of the difficulty, or almost impossibility, of growing the trees. Should this not be the case in your district, pear culture will prove not only pleasant, but profitable.

From a statement already advanced on a former page, it may be concluded that, in the early history of my cultivation of the pear, I was a great *quid nunc*. I confess to the having of a strong liking for everything new and rare, and, like the honey bee, gathered sweets from all quarters. I learned, however, to value the highest flavoured, the hardy, and the most profitable. The catalogue of these sorts is