

By the end of the season, the bud showed by its plumpness that it had been adopted and nourished by its foster parent, and to all appearances it was much the same as any of the other buds, except for the scar around it showing where it had been inserted.

"Early next spring, however, each seedling tree was cut off just above the McIntosh bud, which was thus suddenly given the responsibility of making a new top for the tree, and that is just what each little McIntosh bud did. In three years, each had made a little tree, big enough to be sold for transplanting; and that year they were all taken up and sent to the purchasers throughout the country."

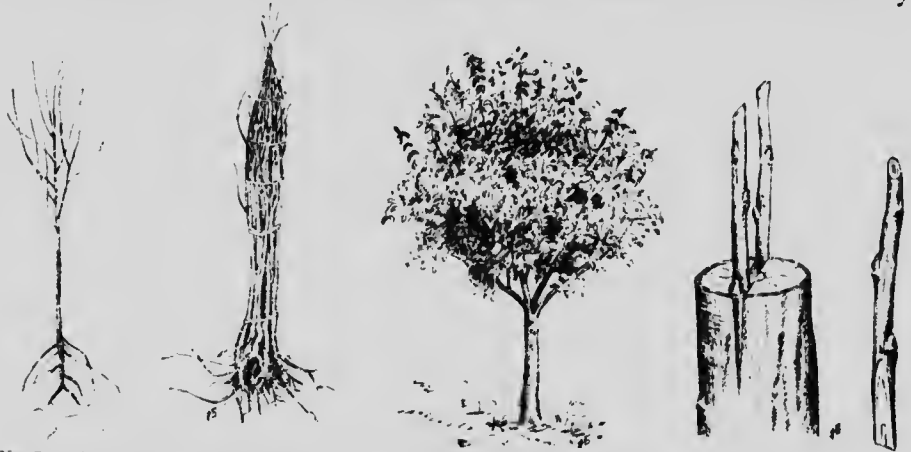
"In Grandpa's orchard you may have noticed that the tree which bears the McIntosh apples bears also a few yellow apples." "Yes, Talman Sweets", said Gordon. "Well, that tree once bore all Talmans; but one spring Grandpa cut off most of its branches and grafted into the stubs left a few scions, or bits of twigs, from a McIntosh tree. These scions united with the growing part of the Talman tree, and produced large branches which bear the McIntosh apples, while the branches which were not grafted still bear Talman Sweet apples."

"By grafting into a large bearing tree in this way, Grandpa's tree was bearing McIntosh apples in three or four years; whereas our tree, being a young one, was nearly twice that old before it had apples on it."

"From the story of this particular apple, you will have learned how new varieties of fruits sometimes originate. Varieties found in this way



No. 70. The adopted bud with scar around it.



No. 71. Taken from the nursery and bundled for shipping.

No. 72. Old enough to begin bearing.

No. 73. How the grafting was done.

are said to be of chance origin. All varieties, however, do not originate by chance. Some are the result of careful and patient work on the part of men who not only gather and plant the seed, but contrive to have the new kind combine the good qualities of the two other varieties. If you will remind me of it next spring, when the trees are in bloom, I will show you how this may be done."