

## THE WESTERN NEW YORK FRUIT GROWERS—II.

## Mr. Willard—The Kieffer Pear—Hardy Peaches—Grape Growing.



EXT to the worthy President, Mr. W. C. Barry, one of the most prominent members of this Society is Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, N.Y., the Vice-President. Always wide-awake, energetic, humorous, he has a habit of popping up just at the nick of time to emphasize an important point, or to bring the house down with laughter and applause. We have been favored with his presence on several occasions at meetings of our Association, and our reports

show how valuable is the information which he has contributed at these times.

Although a specialist in plum culture, of which fruit he has some fifty varieties in bearing, he also grows cherries, quinces, pears, peaches, etc., quite extensively. His interest in plum culture was largely the result of a visit, some twenty-five years ago, to the Hudson river plum grounds, where he saw this fruit grown with such great success, that he determined to make it a prominent feature of his orchard work at Geneva, N.Y. This wisdom of his venture has since been well attested.

He was also one of the first to plant the Kieffer pear as an orchard tree in New York State, and good-naturedly bears the brunt of many criticisms, while he champions it as a profitable orchard variety. Though about sixty years of age, there is not a more enthusiastic fruit grower of any age in the State of New York, just the kind of a man to inspire the members of a horticultural society with confidence in their profession.

*The Kieffer Pear* came up for discussion again at this meeting, and Mr. Willard said he observed that it was being planted in every direction, and the only fear was over-production. He had been shipping them in car lots all the way to Chicago, where the commission men, instead of finding fault, only asked for more. They were just the pears to suit the purpose of the Italians, who retailed them on the street at high prices. The Duchess pear is also the leading variety in Genesee County, according to Mr. Irving Cook. It cropped well this last season, and sold at \$2 to \$3.25 per barrel.

*Hardy Peaches.*—The question was asked, "Are there any new peaches more hardy than the old sorts?" Mr. J. H. Hale said that some of our old varieties will endure 20° below zero, as for instance *Hill's Chili*, which is very hardy, and has not failed for twenty years. All of the Alexander type are very hardy and cannot easily be excelled by any of the newer varieties in this respect