

* New or Little Known Fruits. *

LETTERS FROM RUSSIA—XV.

(Original in French.)



R. MITSCHURIN, one of the most celebrated of Russian horticulturists, has given much attention to the resolving of this question: "What kinds of fruit trees can be grown and propagated successfully in the Russian Province of Tambow (53 north latitude and 40 east longitude)?" He is about to publish the results of his experiments followed out during many years. These make a very interesting descriptive catalogue, which shows us all the varieties of fruit trees grown in the gardens of Mr. Mitschurin, and makes known to us how well each of them is able to endure the cold, and which are worthy of cultivation in the orchards of commercial growers and in the gardens of amateurs. This catalogue gives us the descriptions of many new and well-known kinds, and also some seedlings grown from seeds by Mr. Mitschurin himself. The object of this letter is to make these known to the worthy readers of the HORTICULTURIST.

Of apples, the said catalogue contains a list of one hundred varieties, of which number one to ten belong to a class known as Antonowka.

1. *Antonowka Simple*.—Fruit, moderate size; color, greenish with yellow side; form, conical; flavor, bitterish with a special aroma. This apple keeps at Tambow until March. The tree endures a great amount of cold, is very productive, and is likely to give very fine results in large commercial orchards.

2. *Stone Antonowka*.—(See CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, August No., 1889.) Fruit, moderate size; color, yellow, reddish on the south side; form, round; flesh, firm and agreeable; keeps until May without suffering in flavor. The tree is less hardy and less productive than No. 1, and consequently the raising of it is to be less commended for commercial orchards.

3. *Pound Antonowka* (Fig. 683*).—This sort is preferable to all the varieties of Antonowka. It originated from the White Antonowka. The fruit is very large, and under favorable circumstances it reaches two pounds, Russian weight—usually only one pound. Color, whitish green; form, oblong, with some sides projecting. In a word, the apple is very fine. Its flavor is mild acid, it has a fine aroma, and the flesh is firm. The tree is hardy and very productive, and the fruit keeps until May without losing quality. Mr. Mitschurin highly commends this variety for general trial, both for commercial growers and amateurs.

4. *Antonowka de Mohileu* differs from the preceding variety, being about one half the size.

*The illustrations lack elegance, but show the natural size of the fruits.