

*Nomenclature of our Russian Fruits.*¹

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The American Pomological Society has been the guardian of the nomenclature of our fruits. This has been the special duty of the Society since its origination. What L'Académie Française has been to French literature, to a certain extent has this Society been to American Pomology, so that the Society's catalogue is "the authority," and her dictum acknowledged over a wider area than any other Society in the world.

Of late, however, one foreign element has come in which has not yet received the Society's attention. Large importations have been made from Russia. These fruits have been propagated in this country under the names which they bore when they were received, viz., Russian names, spelled in all sorts of queer ways, or translations of them often unmusical or wholly wrong.

The first large importation of Russian apples was that of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, in 1870, received from Dr. Regel of St. Petersburg. The list, which was received with the trees, was sent by Mr. Wm. Saunders to the Russian Embassy at Washington, for translation, and internal evidence would seem to show that it was dictated by a Russian to a Russian or German clerk. It would seem, too, that the clerk's writing was not very legible: at least, the printer thought so. Then these names are rendered into English sounds, from a foreign, not an English, standpoint. Thus, *ov* and *ou* are intended to be pronounced "ov" or "off;" *ja* should be pronounced "ya". The Russian language is as musical as Italian; and these names, when properly rendered into English sounds, will be divested of half their difficulty.

We should aim at a certain amount of uniformity in the spelling of these Russian names. We find in the Departmental list *schlenka*, *sclenka*, *selonka*, *sclonnoe*, *selennoe*, *sclonniu*, *selanui*, *selomaja*, for the word "green." We find *scholti*, *schotoi*, *schaltui*, *scholtoe*, *scholto* for the word "yellow." The Russian language is rich in inflection, yet is not responsible for all these variations, and if I were to add to these variations the different renderings of those who have shipped orders to this country from different parts of Russia, we should have an approach to this state of things in England

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