

NOTICE OF THE HARDY FRUITS OF UPPER CANADA.

To the Caledonian Horticultural Society

Edinburgh.*

DURING my residence in Upper Canada I had frequent opportunities of seeing and admiring the profusion of fine fruit produced in that country, the apples in the orchards are particularly fine. accustomed as I had been to see fruit-trees in general raised only from grafts or buds, I had no idea of the facility with which apple trees can be raised from seed, and in a very few years, in that fine climate, produce abundance of excellent flavored fruit. There are many of the trees, however, that produce fruit fit only for cider, which are more valuable to the inhabitants than the fine sorts, as they can find a ready sale for their cider which they could not do for their apples, were they ever so fine flavored; and for that reason they are at no trouble in selecting their seed from the finest kinds, or grafting or budding from them.

The inhabitants of Lower Canada seem to have paid considerable attention to the cultivation of fruit-trees for a length of time, as may be judged from the fine specimens of healthy old trees that are to be seen in their orchards. They cultivate several kinds of very fine apples, which have probably been introduced from France, particularly the Pomègrise, Bourassa and Fameuse; they are also beginning to cultivate several varieties that have been grown from seed in the country. I have no doubt whatever, that, if proper care is taken in saving of the seeds, seedlings will be procured so similar to the original in appearance and flavor that the difference would not be easily detected. I was informed that the island of Montreal, about thirty years ago, was much famed for the quantity and excellent quality of its pears, but now

there are very few of that fine fruit in the country, part of the young ones are in an unhealthy state, and no person could assign any cause for this general decay of their pear trees. The Kentish cherry succeeds better than any other that I have seen cultivated in any part of North America that I have visited; they produce fruit in great abundance, and certainly better flavored than in this country. They are propagated from suckers chiefly, which leads me to suppose that the original trees have been propagated from seeds imported from Europe. I have seen good crops of some other kinds in Kentucky and Virginia, viz., blackhearts, May dukes, etc.; but there the trees are much injured by the intense heat of the sun, and most kinds of cherry trees grow very erect, from which circumstance the foliage can yield no protection or shade to the stem or trunk of the tree, and in a few years it will be completely decayed, except a small piece of wood and bark on the north side. I observe that the branches that were shaded from the sun by their own foliage had sustained no injury from the above cause.

Peach trees succeed tolerably well in Lower Canada on walls; in Upper Canada, particularly on the Niagara river, they succeed very well as standards. They grow with great rapidity, but very little attention is paid to them; they are all raised from seed, and many will produce blossoms, if not fruit, the third summer. A few are large and fine flavored fruit, and many tolerable.

Quinces, on the Niagara river, produce generally a good crop. They are certainly a finer flavored fruit than those produced in England, being free from the disagreeable smell that the English quinces have, and are esteemed the best fruit for preserving in that country. The trees are remarkably dwarf, which I suspect is owing to the method they have in propagating them, which is altogether from cuttings, and these are generally branches of considerable size, and planted in the spring.

* This paper is one that I picked out of a book of the minutes of the Royal Caledonian Society, Edinburgh, read at that Society's meeting in the second year of its existence by one of its directors, when the King was one of its patrons.
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