

THE GRIMES' GOLDEN PIPPIN.

The Grimes' Golden is a western apple, and originated in Brooke Co., West Virginia. By whom the seed was sown it is not positively known, but believed to be a Mr. Crawford. This seedling was among the first apple trees produced by an American in the Ohio valley. As such, without taking into consideration the superior quality of fruit, it is worthy to become a matter of history. The many good qualities of both tree and fruit constitute it doubly so. This extraordinary apple has few equals in the catalogue of American fruit; it certainly has no superior. Taking into consideration the hardiness and long life of the tree, its habit of constant bearing, the superior quality of the fruit, together with the great length of time it is in season, the Grimes' Golden stands preeminent.

The original tree, now over ninety years old, is in the orchard of Dr. Joshua Gist, formerly owned by Thomas P. Grime, situate two miles east of the Ohio river. This orchard of seedling trees was set out by Edward Crawford about the year 1790, and by him sold to Thomas Grimes, Sr., in 1799, at which time this noted tree bore its first crop of apples. It is said it has not failed to produce fruit every year since that time. It is a choice apple for the southern market, where it is well known. As early as 1804 Mr. Grimes sold the apples from this tree to traders on the Ohio river, to be taken to New Orleans. In 1734, the year of the severe frosts from the 13th to the 18th of May, which destroyed the fruit throughout the entire region where this tree was growing, it produced a full half crop of apples. This circumstance gave additional notoriety to the tree and fruit, and scions were sought for grafting.

The writer of this, who obtained his first trees of the Grimes' Golden apple in 1838, visited the original tree June 24th, 1879, and found it in a very good state of preservation, with a fair crop of fruit evenly set over its branches. The tree is about thirty feet in height, and measures six feet around the trunk two feet from the ground. Its branches cover an area of 30 feet in diameter. Although not a very large tree, it has frequently produced between 50 and 100 bushels of fine marketable apples in a season. Soon after the original tree came into bearing the fruit was called the Grimes' apple, and sometime later on the Grimes' Pippin. After the late Samuel Wood, a noted nurseryman of Jefferson County, Ohio, commenced propagating it, he added the word golden, calling it Grimes' Golden Pippin. Although it is a legitimate member of the pippin family of apples, at the annual meeting of the Ohio Pomological Society, in 1866, the word pippin was dropped, since which it has been known as Grimes' Golden, and this name is now well established.

The tree is a strong, upright, spreading, open, rapid grower, very handsome in form, and needs little pruning; wood very hard and tough; bark dark greenish brown; foliage large, dark green and very abundant. The tree is an annual bearer, and sets its fruit evenly over the branches. The fruit is very smooth; size medium; form oblong oblate, sometimes a little angling at the crown; color light green, with numerous minute light dots when taken from the tree, but becoming a rich golden yellow when ripe;