

sorts by grafting. He
aning of the Christian
d to the discrediting of
hing is known now of

s of the continent of
en fatigued with the
of Henry the VIII,
nem at Plumstead, in
ted at Perham Park,
its origin also about
e having been raised

ssons of Plants," in
les do differ in great
or greener; varying
little, and many of
middle taste between
thstanding I hear of
hem." This author
d the value of fruits,
put forward, graft
ur is small, the cost
or shall have some-
your good mind and
modern times appear
pulp of the apples,
ed to take away the
f it is made."

chance. They have
e places. In most
circumstances, the
other of nature's
seedling, there has
lition of other valu-
he Esopus Spitzen-
me which takes the
t, originally settled
reening, as its name
origin is unknown.
ly grown, than any
rdiness of the tree,

, originated on the
any more might be
ed then, a valuable
nee its cultivation

nd Greece, so long
planted into Italy.
5th book, describes
rs," he says, "the
s esteemed for its
ias. There were
d "winter pears,"
ies have survived,

and we might have believed that some of them approached the buttery lusciousness of our modern pears, did not Pliny pithily add, most unfortunately for their reputation; "all pears whatsoever are but a heavy meat, unless they are well boiled or baked."

In portions of Europe; Western Asia, and China, the pear grows wild, in company with the apple, in hedges and waste places. In its wild state, it is one of the most astringent of all fruits, and when eaten seizes the throat, with a most unmerciful grip. The pear tree is not a native of America, but has been brought here by foreign agency. The French Huguenots in their native homes paid much attention to the cultivation and improvement of the pear, and when exiled from their country, they carried with them the seeds of some of their choicest varieties, and planted them around their new homes. When some of these persecuted people were led to cross the ocean, to seek in the new world that religious liberty, which was denied to them in the old; they brought their favourite pear seeds here with them, as is shown by the number of aged trees, in the immediate neighbourhood of their first settlements; particularly on Long Island, and at New Rochelle, also in Michigan, and Illinois, and from thence they were disseminated over other portions of the country.

The pear tree is celebrated for its longevity. There are several in Europe known to be near 400 years old. The Stuveysant pear tree which was destroyed in New York City in 1867, was originally planted by the old Governor of the Dutch colony there, more than 200 years ago, on what was then his farm, but which is now a thickly built portion of the city.

Downing states, that one of the most remarkable pear trees for growth and productiveness in this country, is to be found about ten miles north of Vincennes, in Illinois. It is not believed to be more than 40 years old, but the girth of its trunk, one foot above the ground is twelve feet, and at nine feet from the ground, it is six and a half feet; and its branches extend over an area ninety-four feet in diameter. In 1834 it yielded one hundred and eighty-four bushels of pears, and in 1840, it yielded one hundred and forty bushels. The fruit is tolerably large and of fair flavour.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, many excellent varieties of pears were brought into notice, but the highest points of pear excellence, were not reached until within the last fifty or sixty years, during which period the better sorts have been subjected to a process of continual improvement, by crossing and selection, until now there remains but little to be desired, in relation to the perfection of this fruit. It is undeniably the favourite production of modern times and modern cultivators.

There is one peculiarity in reference to this fruit which should always be borne in mind; that is, that it should never be allowed to ripen fully on the tree, but gathered a week or ten days before maturity, and ripened in the house, as in this way it attains a much higher and finer flavour, as well as a more buttery texture, and rich juiciness. Want of attention to this point, has led some pear growers to speak disparagingly of varieties which are highly deserving.

Many excellent pears have originated in this country, chiefly from chance seedlings, while many others of equal importance have been imported from Europe. The Bartlett, probably now the most popular, and best known of all pears, is an English variety, known at home as Williams' Bonchretien. It originated about 1770 in Berkshire, and was afterwards propagated by a London grower, named Williams. When first introduced into this country, its name was lost, and having been chiefly cultivated and disseminated by Enoch Bartlett, of Dorchester, near Boston, Mass., it became so universally known as the Bartlett pear, that it is impossible to alter it now. The climate of this country suits it admirably, the tree grows well, and the fruit has a finer flavour here, than it has in England.

The Duchess d'Angouleme, is a magnificent dessert pear, very large, sometimes weighing a pound or more, and of fine quality. This is also a European sort, and is said to be a natural seedling found in a forest hedge near Angers.

The Seckel, the standard of excellence among pears, and without doubt the most exquisitely flavoured variety known, is of American birth; and had its origin on the farm of a Mr. Seckel, about four miles from Philadelphia. The original tree is still living, and continues to bear fair crops of fruit.

Clapp's Favourite, a very fine variety recently introduced, is also of American growth, having been raised from seed by the late Thaddeus Clapp, of Dorchester, Mass. Although not yet very widely disseminated, it has been awarded on several occasions the highest