

Pear culture, perhaps, has even made greater strides than that of apples, because it is more recent. It is true indeed, that there is no want of individuals, who have been for years touched with the fever of pear culture. Mr. Dougall, of Windsor, years and years ago, went to the expense of importing new and rare varieties from France. Here and there his efforts and example have borne fruit. There is some fine fruit grown on the northern shores of Lake Erie, which, in many instances, can be traced to his nursery. St. Catharines and Niagara have been, perhaps, far ahead of other parts of the country in the cultivation of the older and finer varieties of pear. Pears excel on alluvial deposits, both in the Old and New Worlds. Windsor and Niagara are striking examples of the remark. The old pear trees in and about Windsor are the wonder of visitors, and there are some specimens of pear trees at and near Niagara, not much behind the former in growth and size.

The cultivation of the peach of late years has not kept pace with apple and pear culture. Owing to the open and unsteady nature of the weather in winter, and the ravages of the curculio, peach trees have suffered severely. Eighteen years ago—which is the extent of my experience in the country—there were few finer sights to be presented anywhere, than a journey from Hamilton to the Falls, by the macadamized road, in the month of May. In that month the blossom was exquisite. Now all is changed; whole orchards have disappeared, and few cultivators of that luscious fruit can be found. It is all but impossible to raise a peach or a peach tree.

We are satisfied that on the western borders of Lake Ontario, the northern of Lake Erie, and the ridges of "Long Point," parts of Essex and Kent, and the shores of Lake Huron—as Bayfield, Goderich and Kincardine—will yet raise peach culture to an enviable eminence in our Province. Nectarines flourish well in gardens, as standards, at Goderich and along Lake Huron from Sarnia to Kincardine. The inroads of that little Turk, the Curculio, is blamed for the almost total neglect of apricot, nectarine and peach culture; but as "Eternal vigilance is the price of good fruit," perhaps the blame ought to be laid at the door of our neglect. Many fruit-growers have overcome the unwelcome "Turk," and, once got rid of, a good crop is ensured.

Should any one hear me who may desire to enter upon apricot and nectarine cultivation, I strongly recommend, from my experience, that the trees be planted in a western exposure, of a house or other building, as the day is far gone before the sun gets round to shine on that aspect, when a frosty night has rendered the branches and their sap-vessels liable to injury by the sun shining on and bursting them.

Plums have come into very general cultivation of late years. They have always been considered a most desirable fruit, and are highly esteemed by the public. It is not many years since no variety was to be found in our markets, except the common blue plum. Now the finest sorts are generally cultivated, and bring large prices, five dollars a bushel is no uncommon price for them in the Hamilton market, and all that can be produced find a ready sale at \$3. Public taste is being educated for finer varieties. It is a remark often heard among purchasers, who have patronized the best varieties once, my taste is spoiled for anything else than the best. Duane's purple, Bradshaw, McLaughlin, Guthrie's apricot, and Reine Claude de Bavay, are leading varieties, and all these are productive bearers. Plum culture will amply repay all outlay.

We have never had any great liking for the cultivation of the cherry. There are so many slips between the tree and the lip, that often much labour is lost. What with uncertain crops, bird depredations, and other enemies, such as the cherry curculio, very often the smallest share remains to reward the grower. The advance in the cultivation of the cherry is quite on a par with that of the other fruits before mentioned.

Perhaps the advance on the whole is greater. Most of us remember the rows of never-failing Kentish that used to grace the farmer's snake fence or garden border. These have been in great measure replaced along our frontier townships by the Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Elton and Napoleon Bigarreau. The improved modes of canning the smaller fruits, has given quite an impetus to the production of the various sorts of cherries. The tree itself has fewer enemies than most other fruit trees. It is, however, liable to gum on heavy clay soils.

The peach and quince and grape do well wherever you find the chesnut flourish.