

THE LARNE APPLE—ALIAS, THE BAXTER.

By D. NICHOL, CATARAQUI, ONT.

NOTICING that this magnificent apple is now gaining some prominence, and being, perhaps, the only one now living who can give its correct history, I deem it expedient to ask you the favor of its publication in the *HORTICULTURIST*.

In the year 1855 I started nursery business in company with the late Mr. Rich. Coleman, of Lyn, near Brockville. During the following Winter I observed an old gentleman (Mr. Baxter) peddling in the village some very handsome, large, red apples at five cents each; I purchased a few, and being so struck with their appearance I made inquiry as to where they were grown, and so forth. Mr. Baxter informed me that the tree from which the apples were plucked was growing at Larne's Mills, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, about thirteen miles west of Brockville. I asked him for some scions from the tree, and in a few days thereafter he kindly brought me twenty-five strong shoots, which I root-grafted, and from which I raised about fifty trees. These, I believe, were the first trees of the kind ever propagated. I named them the "Baxter."

The following year I spoke of my discovery to Mr. George Leslie, nurseryman, Toronto, and at his request I purchased for and sent him a bunch of scions of the "Baxter" apple tree.

Subsequently becoming anxious to see the parent tree with the fruit growing on it, and to ascertain its

habits, I drove to Larne's Mills, and I found it growing in an old orchard belonging to Mr. Billa Larne, who told me he brought with him from France, in the year 1813, the seeds from which the tree grew, and that he was entitled to the name of the apple, although Mr. Baxter had a large tree top-grafted with the same; so henceforth it was called the "Larne" apple; that is its proper name. I have of it here in my orchard at Cataraqui, twenty trees in robust health, yielding annually profitable crops. In Kingston market the fruit sells more readily and at rather higher price than any other apple offered for sale, although it is not by any means equal in quality to the N. Spy.

At the same time the Larne trees were planted, which is twenty-one years ago, I planted 100 Spys and am now digging out the last of their remains. I will not longer strive to produce my favorite apple in this climate. In trying to produce good fruit of the Spy, Greening, Baldwin and King, I think I have expended more time, labor and money than any other living man, but am now forced to the conclusion that these choice sorts can only be grown successfully in a very small proportionate area of Ontario.

In apples our great need is a hardy, long-keeping, showy apple of good quality, which could be shipped to foreign markets with advantage. Tree hardy as the Duchess, fruit hardy as the Baldwin, color, size