

## APPLE GATHERERS.



NOTICE the apple gatherer illustrated in the Rural New Yorker of September 1st, with "patent applied for." In 1876, we had a large lot of apples to gather on our fruit farm near Cynthia, Ky. The apples were fine, the price low and the help scarce. So we, from necessity, had to draw on our wits for help. On the place was a low-wheeled feed wagon with a bed 18 feet long, very wide, with sides flaring out. On this we constructed a light, strong frame with top rails 18 feet long, nine feet wide, and when on the wagon, about five feet high. We made a strong canvas cover and tucked it securely all around on the top rail, cut a slit in the centre the long way, except about two feet at each end, bound a twine on this edge, and about every three feet tied the two edges together with a bit of twine. One man at each end could set the frame, canvas and all, on the wagon or off on a set of trestles.

With this equipage, one man drove a strong, gentle team along the rows on one side, stopping as close as possible to the tree; a boy in the tree shook half the apples into the canvas, and of course they ran to the centre and through the slits into the wagon bed. The man meanwhile picked a few from the lower limbs, picked up some good ones that fell overboard, while another boy stretched out his limbs, helped a little, and scrambled into the next tree in time for the on-coming wagon. The wagon was driven up one side of the row and back on the other side, with the result that one man and two boys gathered four loads of 50 bushels each per day, hauling them a quarter of a mile, sorted them and put them away, part for keeping and part for the cider mill. I never saw apples come in in better condition, or keep better. We used that device for a number of years, and hundred of persons saw us at work with it.

About ten years ago we let our wagon go down, but bought at Cincinnati for \$18 a circus tent about thirty feet in diameter. We used the body of the tent to patch a tarred roof on a tobacco barn, but inverted the top, cut it from the center to the circumference on one side, fixed a twine on each side at the centre and circumference, and tied the centre around the tree. We cut poles about eight feet long, and sharpened them at one end, so that the point would hold in the eyelet holes around the circumference, tied a small rope in the same eyelet, drew it back in a direct line over the pole from the tree and fastened it by a large spike driven in the ground. We cut a few slits two feet from the tree but outside of the circling rope, shook the apples, and found them in a pile ready for assorting and in fine condition.—J. A. MCKEE, in Rural New Yorker.

## SEEDLING PLUM.

Messrs. Allan Bros., of Winona, Ont., sent us, on the 8th of August, a new seedling plum, just about in season for use. The color is green, and the quality excellent. Should the plum prove valuable, it will be more fully described.