

APPLES.

ANIS.—This is the leading apple of the Volga, the apple tree most highly prized, most largely grown. To the enquiry, which are your most profitable varieties? the reply invariably was Anis, I think, invariably, my notes show no exception nor do I remember one. Such was the verdict in all the orchards of the different towns and villages between Kazan and Saratof. We first met with it in that curious semi-oriental bazaar, the Nijni Novgorod fair. Here we find the Russian peasant orchardist bringing large quantities of it to the bazaar in bark boxes, usually willow bark boxes, holding about three bushels.

In the southern part of the Government of Kazan, in latitude 55, the same latitude as Moscow, but 430 miles to the east of it, in a continental climate, a climate of extremes, and yet 600 miles nearer the North Pole than the City of Quebec, there are twelve villages where the peasant proprietors are apple growers, the chief industry in fact is apple growing. When we were there the little trees were loaded with fruit, yet the thermometer had been down to forty below zero the winter previous. Five years before, during one day, the temperature on these exposed loess bluffs was—40 Reaumur, or 58 below zero by Fahrenheit's thermometer. These low temperatures, however, do not seem verified by the meteorological records in the City of Kazan. Hearing of these low temperatures I looked for winter injury to the trees, but did not find any traces of it.

In answer to the query, which is the hardiest apple tree you have, the tree that has stood best the most trying winters? the answer, I believe, always was Anis. The general idea there is that it is of all kinds known, the apple tree that can be grown the farthest North, except what they call the Chinese apple, or as we would say, the Siberian crab, and these crabs, which are not common, are true Siberian *Prunifolias*, and not less hardy hybrids. In these villages the apple is grown, in a good season, certainly to the value of \$50,000. In this, the coldest profitable orchard region in the world, the Anis is noted as their hardiest tree.