

begin gathering apples a week earlier—that is, late in September, and can preserve the freshness and aroma of the fruit for several weeks later than in the cellar. If the slight moisture upon the apples can be prevented in the fall, and a low and even temperature can be kept, one can secure a finer flavor and keep apples for weeks longer than by the ordinary careless way.—W. H. HART, in *Farm and Home*.

PRUNUS SIMONI.

SIR: In looking over the August number of the *Horticulturist*, Prof. Budd is quoted as saying of the *Prunus Simoni* or Simon's Plum: "It will be the king of fruits—better than any apricot," &c. From my own knowledge of Prof. Budd's opinion of this tree and fruit, as expressed publicly and in private, the article referred to seems to flavor of the nurseryman's catalogue rather than of the cautiously expressed opinion of the careful experimenter.

In reply to recent query about this fruit by the *Rural New-Yorker*, Prof. Budd says: "I first met with it in bearing in the Valley of the Moselle, in Eastern France, where it was introduced from North-east China by Simon Louis, of Metz, through his brother-in-law, Eugene Simon, when he was French Minister at Pekin. Mr. Louis seemed to place quite a high estimate on its fruit for culinary use, especially for growing in sections where the peach failed to do well. After ascertaining that the tree endured the summers and winters of Iowa as well as the Chickasaw plums, and after tasting its peach-flavored sauce, I naturally recommended it for trial. But this was followed by the positive assurance that it would not be apt to be worth growing in sections where the peach, nectarine, or the best apricots succeed moderately well. I said

then, and believe now, that on the northern borders of the peach belt it is worthy of trial, as it comes nearer to the peach and nectarine in flavor, when cooked, than any variety of the plum I ever met with.

"Some good botanists of Europe agree with the writer in the opinion that in tree, flower, and fruit it comes nearer to the almond and peach than to the plum family, and that crosses with it of both peach and plum may bring interesting and valuable results. Aside from its possible value for fruit, I may add that it makes a neat-foliaged, pyramidal tree for lawn or walk border."

Yours truly,

JOHN CRAIG.

FALL PLANTING.

Sir,—The experience of Mr. T. H. Rice with fall planting given in September Number is the experience of thousands, but I really wish the gentleman had gone farther and given his opinion as to the cause of the loss sustained. To my mind, the fact that a great many fall planted trees are lost throughout the country every year, is not proof that this season is objectionable. I do nearly all my transplanting with the best success in the fall, always being particularly careful to set the tree firmly in the soil, compacting the earth closely to every root, and if large, staking to prevent swaying by the wind.

Frost will have no more effect for injury, on a tree thus planted than it would in the nursery row, provided the soil is dry, and where the benefit over spring planting comes in, is that during the winter the roots heal and callous, the trees get an earlier start in spring with the result of 6 to 12 inches better growth the following season.

I do not wish to be understood as depreciating spring planting, not at all, but my experience leads me to favor fall planting, properly done. If