

refers to it in his writings, and talks of the improvement of the wild sorts by grafting. He speaks of 29 kinds, as then cultivated in Italy—this was about the beginning of the Christian era—subsequent progress, however, in the improvement of this fruit, led to the discarding of the varieties mentioned by Pliny, better ones being substituted, and nothing is known now of any of the sorts then so highly extolled.

The apple is probably a native of England, as well as of other parts of the continent of Europe; for history tells us, that in the year 973, King Edgar, when fatigued with the labours of the chase, rested under a wild apple tree. In the 16th year of Henry the VIII, Pippins were introduced into England, by Lord Masehal, who planted them at Plumstead, in Sussex. Soon after this the celebrated English Golden Pippin originated at Perham Park, in Sussex, and its cultivation rapidly spread. The Ribston Pippin had its origin also about that time, and was a native of Ribston Park, Yorkshire, the original tree having been raised from the seed of a Pippin brought from France.

At a somewhat later period, 1597, John Gerard published his "Lessons of Plants," in an extensive folio. In reference to apples, he says:—"The fruit of apples do differ in greatness, forme, colour, and taste, some covered with red skin, others yellow or Greene; varying infinitely according to soil, and climate. Some very greete, some very little, and many of middle sort; some are sweet of taste, or something soure, most be of middle taste between sweet and soure; the which to distinguish I think it impossible, notwithstanding I hear of one who intendeth to write a peculiar volume of apples, and the use of them." This author was somewhat of an enthusiast in his department, and evidently appreciated the value of fruits, and thus urges on their culture. "Gentlemen that have land and living, put forward, graft, set, plant, and nourish up trees in every corner of your grounds; the labour is small, the cost is nothing, the commoditie is great, yourselves shall have plentie, the poor shall have somewhat in time of want to relieve their necessities, and God shall reward your good mind and diligence." He also gives us one peculiar use of the apple, which we in modern times appear to have overlooked. "There is," he says, "made an ointment, with the pulp of the apples, and swine's grease, and rose water, which is used to beautify the face, and to take away the roughness of the skin; it is called in shops *pomatium*, of the apples whereof it is made."

In America, most of our finest apples appear to have originated by chance. They have been accidental seedlings, in orchards, gardens, or sometimes even in waste places. In most of such cases, there has, no doubt, been a happy blending of fortunate circumstances, the seed has probably been from a good sort, fertilized by insects, or some other of nature's agents, with pollen from some other good variety, and in the resulting seedling, there has been an excellent combination of the best qualities of both; with the addition of other valuable properties, such as new flavour, and improved keeping qualities. The Esopus Spitzenburgh, probably the highest and richest flavoured of all our apples, and one which takes the lead in European estimation, originated at Esopus, a famous apple district, originally settled by the low Dutch, on the Hudson River, New York. The Rhode Island Greening, as its name suggests, was probably first produced in Rhode Island; although its exact origin is unknown. This excellent variety, is perhaps, more widely disseminated and extensively grown, than any other apple we have, owing mainly, no doubt, to the healthiness and hardiness of the tree, and to the fact of its bearing large and regular crops.

The Baldwin is a native of Massachusetts, while the Northern Spy, originated on the farm of Hermann Chapin, of East Bloomfield, near Rochester, N. Y. Many more might be enumerated in this way, but these examples will suffice. Every now and then, a valuable new seedling makes its appearance in our own country, and from thence its cultivation spreads.

#### THE PEAR.

The pear is also a very ancient fruit. It was common in Egypt, and Greece, so long ago as the earliest times of the Romans, and from Greece, it was transplanted into Italy. Virgil mentions some pears, which he received from Cato. Pliny, in his 15th book, describes the varieties in cultivation in his time as very numerous. "Of all pears," he says, "the Costumine is the most delicate and agreeable." The Falernian Pear, was esteemed for its juice, and the Tiberian, because it was preferred by the Emperor Tiberias. There were "proud pears," so called because they ripened early, and would not keep, and "winter pears," pears for baking, as at the present day. None of these old Roman varieties have survived,

and we might have modern pears, did whatsoever are but

In portions of the apple, in hedges all fruits, and wher is not a native of A not in their native pear, and when exil choicest varieties, as people were led to denied to them in tl by the number of ag larly on Long Island they were disseminat

The pear tree i near 400 years old. 1867, was originall 200 years ago, on v city.

Downing states, ness in this country, not believed to be mo is twelve feet, and at extend over an area four bushels of pears tolerably large and of

During the 17th notice, but the highes or sixty years, during tinal improvement, b in relation to the per modern times and mo

There is one peet that is, that it should ten days before matur and finer flavour, as w this point, has led son deserving.

Many excellent 1 while many others of probably now the most home as Williams' Bor propagated by a Londo its name was lost, and Dorchester, near Bostor impossible to alter it ne well, and the fruit has

The Duchess d'An a pound or more, and o seedling found in a fore

The Seckel, the st itely flavoured variety Seckel, about four miles to bear fair crops of fruit

Clapp's Favourite, having been raised from not yet very widely dis