

the tree being diseased, lingers along two or three years and dies.

We were able in Central Michigan to compare cherry trees cultivated upon the Mazzard stock with those budded upon the Mahaleb stock, a variety of cherry which is imported from Europe, and on which cherries when budded or grafted, thrive well. There we saw cherry trees growing side by side for the last four years upon both kinds of stocks. Those budded on the Mazzard had so badly cracked that they were nearly dead and worthless, while those on the Mahaleb were in the finest possible health and vigor. The owner, a very intelligent cultivator, said that he would not plant a cherry tree in his locality upon the Mazzard stock, as he considered it utterly worthless; and the only stock fit to use was the Mahaleb—thus insuring healthy, vigorous and productive trees. This soil was similar to the prairie soils of the West, being rich, deep, and very productive. This corresponds with our heretofore expressed belief, that those who possess rich alluvial soils, which make a rapid, succulent growth in the fall, cannot grow cherries successfully on the common Mazzard, but could do it upon the Mahaleb stock. We would esteem it as a favor if any one who may have experience with cherries upon both stocks at the West, would advise us of his views.

In regard to sorts of the respective kinds of fruit, experience has yet to prove what kind will succeed best. Among apples, enough is already known to decide upon the merits of many of our leading varieties; some maintain their high eastern character, while others prove to be second, and some only third rate. It is also noticed that some which are quite inferior with us, promise to be among the most valuable.

[For the Genesee Farmer.]

#### CULTURE OF APPLES AT THE WEST.

MR. EDITOR: To give the "modus operandi" of the culture of apples, and the varieties grown at the West, would require more time than I now have to devote to it, or you inclination to publish. Suffice it to say, that the proper mode of cultivation is very different from the one usually adopted in Western New York. Our climate is more varied and changeable. At times, during December and February, the mercury indicates 45° and 50°, and in six hours we are not surprised to find it below zero, very often proving fatal to young nursery trees, and frequently killing orchards that have been some years set out. Orchards where low heads have been formed, are

found to be more hardy, less liable to injury, and bearing earlier and more uniform crops. Three-fourths of the orchards first set out in this region, were from trees worked as high up as a man could reach on seedling stocks. Most of these trees have been blown over by our strong south-west winds to an angle of 15 to 20 degrees, causing the sun to strike them, the effect of which is, that all such trees, with hardly an exception, are dead from the limbs to the ground. Low-topped trees are never affected in this way, unless very upright growers, the limbs not forming a shade for the trunk. I believe there is no locality east or west where the culture of the apple can be made as profitable as on the St. Joseph Valley, extending from Lake Michigan back a distance of 60 miles through Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan. Every year favors us with a bountiful supply of apples, so much so, that last year 4,500 barrels were shipped from our place alone to the Chicago market, at prices ranging from 37½ cents to \$1 per bushel, and fine fruit they were—better cannot be grown—large, well colored, fine flavored, and better samples than we have ever seen in New York. Our apples (in fact, all fruits) grow larger and finer here than those grown east, but will not keep as well. The *Rhode Island Greening* is an autumn apple, here seldom seen later than December, and the *Esopus Spitzenburgh* is now in prime eating order. We attribute this to the exceedingly hot sun during summer, and the late, warm falls. Our late or store apples are the *Rawles' Janet*, *Prior's Red*, *American Golden Russett*, *Cannon Pearmain* and others, (not grown in Western New York,) of which I shall speak hereafter.

The taste in horticulture is rapidly increasing. More trees have been planted within one year than for three years previously. Large orchards have been set out for the purpose of supplying the Chicago market, which, by the way, is second in this respect to no city in the Union of double its age. We last fall saw fine *Virgalieu* (White Doyenne) pears selling for one shilling each; also *Brantford's Late Bach* at the same price, and *Fall Pippins* at 3 to 5 cents each. There can be no question but an orchard of a few thousand well selected apple trees would pay a better profit than any other investment. Our locality renders it an important fruit growing region. There are at the north of us, in the lumber and mining districts, large sections of country that are dependent on other localities for their fruits, vegetables, &c., and in all probability the next twenty years cannot half supply the market.