

PEARS AND BLIGHT.

I was very greatly delighted by your recent reproduction of the article on this subject from the "New York Experiment Station." The popular Professor is evidently doing some profitable work in this direction, and we may learn useful lessons from it. The cause and cure of pear blight is an old question and as virulent now as ever, and these observations tend to furnish a key to a successful solution, and to the proper treatment of the pear. This subject is of very great interest to us and with a climate so favorable to the growth of the most excellent pears, we should much like to be freed from this pestilent blight. If pears of acknowledged excellence cannot be satisfactorily produced we must look to those of lower grades of excellence but with harder and more robust nature in the trees. A few days ago I received a pamphlet from a fruit company in the State of Georgia advocating the great merits of the Le Conte and Kieffer pears as the most promising fruit investment in that state. They claim that these trees are nearly and in some localities quite blight proof. This led me to recall some remarks of a gentleman at one of the Western New York Annual Horticultural meetings. He said "that the direction of promise in pear growing to-day lay in the lines of the Japan or Chinese Sand pears, and our hopes for the future must come through these." This doctrine of course was not nor is it now very grateful, so used as we are to looking to Belgium and France instead of to Japan or China for our delicious pears. Whether this teaching be correct or not there is evidently something in the very nature of the pear tree in its relation to our condition and its treatment here that requires the closest study before its prosperity can be assured in all positions and locations in Ontario. But we maintain that this will never

be the case as it is contrary to our knowledge of the first principles of fruit growing to expect it. In the case of no fruit do we find that every locality is equally suited to its most complete production. For these reasons we will unhesitatingly resort for this purpose to the notion of

SELECTION OF LOCATIONS

for the pear as the direction of our surest and best hopes. I am not, Sir, going to lead you and your numerous readers into every hole and corner of Ontario to find these locations, but I am at present simply intending to confine my remarks on this subject to this locality and district. As you may already know there is a fine promising region of country here bordering the long and winding but picturesque and beautiful River Aux Sables, coming out as it does from the county of Huron and running through the county of Middlesex empties its volume of water into Lake Huron, at a point in this county called Port Franks. Along the upper course of this water ravine there are thousands of acres of rich deposit of strong clay loamy soils, in undulating positions, thoroughly drained and rolling. These very soils along this stream and through its adjacent county, are the best and most promising location for the successful growth of the pear that has come under our observation. In this region, as far as we know, there have been no cases of pear blight in its most virulent form with its depressing results of death to the tree. The soil throughout is a deep, heavy, clay loam, resting at a distance of 10 to 20 feet on the rock, and is in every direction cut up and ravined by the powerful force of small streamlets making their way to the river, and the intersected high lands are in some cases mound like and hill shaped and in others broad beautiful table lands. We would ask why not use a region like this of so much