

NOTES FROM MAPLEHURST.—II.



E are often asked the question, *What is the best summer pear for profit?* We have just now, August 14th, several varieties ripening, as, for instance, *Beurre Giffard*, *Chambers*, *Doyenne d'Été*, *Osband's Summer*, *Rostiezer*, *Summer Belle* and *Tyson*; and judging from our present experience, we would be inclined to reply *Beurre Giffard*. While *Doyenne d'Été* heads the list for earliness, the *Giffard* is not more than a week later and so superior in size and quality, that it is well worth waiting for. *Chambers*, or *Early Harvest*, is a fine pear about as large as the *Giffard*, and, with us, on the dwarf, very productive. It comes from Maryland and has been highly recommended by the Kentucky Horticultural Society as the best and most profitable market pear of its season. Its rich, golden yellow color, with blushed cheek, would surely sell it quickly in any market, but the *Giffard* so surpasses it in quality, that we would certainly give it the first place. Walking with some friends along our "specimen row" the other day, we handed them first the *Chambers* and then the *Beurre Giffard*, and all at once chose the *Giffard* for eating, one lady remarking that it was "almost like candy." The *Osband's Summer* is rather small and very perishable, while the tree itself is very subject to blight. The *Rostiezer* is a pear of excellent quality, but its small size and dull, green color make it almost unsalable in the market; even the *Summer Belle* of most wretched quality but fair size, will sell more quickly in the market than the *Rostiezer*. Some growers highly commend the *Tyson* and certainly, for productiveness, vigor, and healthfulness of tree, it is one of the best; but the color of the fruit is poor, and, consequently, it is not very saleable, especially as it ripens near the season of the *Bartlett*.

Of blackberries, our experience this season is highly in favor of the *Kittatinny* for this section of country. The *Taylor*, *Snyder*, and *Agawam* are too small to be profitable where the *Kittatinny* will succeed. This latter has yielded us this year a wonderful crop, the result we think, not only of a favorable season, but of the liberal application of ashes and superphosphate. We are becoming more and more convinced that these are of exceeding great value in the apple orchard, and in the blackberry and raspberry plantations; for this is not the first instance where we have harvested an enormous crop of berries after a liberal treatment with these fertilizers, and the same may be said of our apple orchards.

The *Red Astrachan* apple has proved itself to be one of the most productive of early apples on our ground. A lot of one hundred trees, fifteen years planted, is estimated to have a crop this season of at least three hundred barrels, and this we count a large yield, when we consider that this is not the bearing year of nearly all the trees. Many of them are borne down to the ground with