

Pears weigh one-third heavier than apples for the same bulk, and therefore, especially for such large kinds as the Duchesse, the half-barrel or keg is much preferable to the barrel; it is so much more easily handled, and will command a better price in proportion.

Grown on standards the Duchesse is somewhat uncertain, both in size and quality; but grown on dwarf trees it is most delicious and of the best quality, and certainly an honor to the Duchesse d'Angoulême of France, even if it was a seedling found in a hedge near Angers. Probably no pear will better respond to liberal culture than it does; and a liberal cutting back of a portion of the new growth often results in the production of samples over one pound in weight. Indeed, we have found that in the case of dwarf trees of some age, which were bearing small and knotty fruit, a wholesale cutting

back of the old wood was most beneficial, resulting in a vigorous young growth, and consequently in fruit of much improved form.

We reproduce from *The Garden* an engraving of a new style of training dwarf pear trees, which is now being adopted in England with considerable success. It is bush form of training, the trees branching at the ground and not being allowed to form any trunk. In this way they may be planted at a distance of six feet apart, and kept so low that no ladders are required in gathering the fruit. Trees thus grown have produced a prodigious crop in the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick, near London. Another advantage of this mode of culture was observed in this, that very little damage was done these trees by storms, while standards were half-stripped of their fruit by high winds.

## SOME PROMINENT CANADIAN HORTICULTURISTS.—VI.

REV. ROBERT BURNET.

THOSE of us who were in attendance at the meetings of our Association during the years from 1869 to 1879 will recognise in the accompanying steel engraving the genial face of one who, during those years, filled the presidential chair with distinguished ability, characterized by geniality of manner; his warm greetings were always appreciated by us as he welcomed us to the meetings; and his vivacity gave great liveliness to the discussions, while his manner of eliciting information from each one present was eminently successful.

Regarding the life of the Rev. Robert Burnet, we have only a few bare facts at our command from which to compile this sketch. His father, James Burnet, and his progenitors for five generations, were natives of Ladykirk, Berwickshire, Scotland; he was a lineal descendant of the Burnet family, who, for five hundred years, were millers in Neustead Mill, and afterwards in Tweed Mill, as published by Dr. Chalmers in a volume of his "Miscellany." His mother was Elizabeth Blair, daughter of David Blair, once tacksman of the Home Farm, Floors Castle, Roxburghshire.