

NEW VARIETIES.



HE fruit grower is ever on the alert for the appearance of new varieties, possessing points of merit sufficient to warrant cultivation. Too often the planter is cruelly sold by some unprincipled agent, or, possibly, by the nurseryman introducing the so-called new variety, for even nurserymen do sometimes swindle the unsuspecting as well as the suspicious planter. But I will not go further in the way of scourging either nurserymen or tree agents, as we cannot do without them, and their few evil deeds are more than atoned for by the good they do.

There was a time when there was abundant room for all the new varieties offered. But now that this province is fairly well supplied, we can profitably exercise more caution in accepting new kinds of fruits. On every hand we meet aspirants for immortality with some "chance seedling," and many bear such points of merit that it often seems harsh to discourage their introduction. At the fall exhibitions we meet with many new seedlings, and while a few possess more or less merit, the large majority are actually worthless. I examined a plum grown by Mr. F. Jordan, of Goderich, said to be a seedling from Yellow Egg. It resembles Huling's Superb in size, color and flavor closely, indeed, so much so, that I at first pronounced it to be that variety, and still have an inclination to hold to that opinion, although the foliage is much darker and the tree older and larger than I have known that variety to attain generally. Although a very large, healthy tree, there is no sign of black knot, and Mr. Jordan says he never observed any on it. Being situated where it receives abundance of nourishment, keeping the tree strong and vigorous, will, to a great extent, account for freedom from black knot. But what I desire particularly to claim is this: that, altogether, we cannot say there is in this seedling (if it be such) *enough* merit to warrant introduction in preference to Huling's Superb.

I saw what is claimed to be a seedling of Pond's, which so closely resembles that variety that I would and did discourage its introduction. There are a number of seedlings of Yellow Egg now in the country, but I have not seen any better than the parent, though some were larger, which might be accounted for in many ways, especially in young trees.

I have been watching with high hopes a seedling of Prince of Wales, and the first two bearings were so fine that I believed it was sure to come to the front, but the past season's crop proves how we may often be deceived in young trees. The seedling fell in my esteem sufficiently far to advise the grower not to attempt to introduce it; although probably as good as the Prince in all points, yet not excelling in important points sufficiently to warrant its taking the place of that variety.

While we should, as an Association, offer every encouragement for the production of seedlings, it is necessary to be particularly guarded in advising