

nation of information by this Society, respecting the qualities and hardness of fruits, cannot prevent fruit growers from being occasionally disappointed, yet it must be the means of greatly lessening the number of such cases. And if all who have had experience in fruit culture would join the Society and engage in its deliberations much more certain results would be attained, and much greater reliance could be placed upon the list of fruits recommended by the Society.

A large proportion, however, of the farmers of Canada, when they make up their minds to plant an orchard, instead of going to a respectable and responsible nurseryman and obtaining from him *good varieties* of fruit in *good condition*, take from some travelling fruit pedlar or pretended agent for the sale of trees, whatever he may happen to have on hand, and upon his recommendation only. As he has probably bought a stock of trees, and sometimes only the *refuse trees* of a nurseryman's stock solely for the purpose of selling again and *must* sell what he has, whether they are good or bad, suitable or unsuitable to the climate and locality, his interest clearly is to get rid of his trees as fast as possible. The interest of a nurseryman, on the contrary, is to give satisfaction to those who deal with him, as his character and business prospects depend upon his giving such satisfaction. It is not surprising that trees bought in the way I have mentioned from travelling agents and fruit tree pedlars should turn out badly, that a large proportion do not survive, and those which do, turn out to be comparatively worthless; what is surprising is that careful men who would not sow a field with wheat without endeavoring to obtain the best and most suitable kind for seed, or who in raising stock would get the best that their means allow, are careless and indifferent in a matter of such importance as the planting of an orchard. In the event of getting an inferior kind of wheat there is at the worst only the loss of the ground for one year, and if inferior stock is got there will be no loss, as even inferior animals can be sold in a year or two for as much or more than it cost to raise them; but when an orchard is planted with inferior or worthless fruit the case is very different, the use of the ground is in a great measure lost for perhaps 15 or 20 years; how important then is it to secure the best varieties and obtain fruit that will be worth hundreds of dollars annually, instead of having the ground occupied by trees the fruit of which will not pay the expense of gathering and taking to market.

The manner in which fruit trees are bought from tree pedlars and *pretended* agents, and the result of such purchases, is no imaginary case. I have only stated what has again and again been brought under my own notice in the Division Courts in actions brought for the price agreed to be paid for the trees. I trust that this Society and the publication of its proceedings and catalogue of fruits may be the means of preventing

farmers from purchasing trees from irresponsible people, and of inducing them to order the most suitable varieties from reliable nurserymen, or their *duly authorized* agents, who can be depended upon to deliver the kinds ordered in good condition.

As one of the objects of this Society is the naming and identifying of the different kinds and varieties of fruit, those farmers and fruit growers who are not acquainted with the names of the fruits they may have in their orchards, will by joining this Society, and bringing to the meetings specimens of the fruit, get the fruit identified and named by the members of the Society, most of whom are experienced cultivators and well acquainted with all the varieties in common cultivation.

I have to congratulate you upon the progress made by the Society during the past year. During the first year of its existence, owing in a great measure to the lamented death of its first President, the late Judge Campbell, of Niagara, nothing was done towards the accomplishment of the objects of the Society; but during the past year several meetings have been held for the discussion of the merits of the different varieties of fruit and their adaptability to this climate, and a list of fruits has been made and recommended which is complete as far as it goes, it embraces the varieties of apples, pears, currants, strawberries, and raspberries considered most desirable for cultivation in this country; the merits of the New Rochelle or Lawton Blackberry were discussed, and it was decided not to recommend it for cultivation. I hope that during the present sitting the best varieties of the other fruits, such as grapes, plums, cherries, peaches, gooseberries, &c. may be determined, so that before the planting season commences a complete list of all fruits recommended by the Society may be published. I think it is of particular importance that the subject of the best varieties of hardy grapes should engage your early attention. A greatly increased interest has for the past few years been felt in the cultivation of the grape in the United States, and that interest is extending to Canada. A large number of the new varieties or varieties with new names are advertised by nurserymen but little or nothing is known of them: the people generally only know the old varieties, such as the Isabella and Catawba, and perhaps the Sweetwater. And as the object in producing new varieties has been to produce a *hardy grape* that will *ripen early* and produce a fruit of superior quality to these old varieties, it is important to know in how far these objects have been accomplished in any of the new varieties, and let the public know what varieties have on this been found to be most desirable for cultivation in this country. In determining the varieties of grape most suitable for cultivation, greater care is perhaps required in coming to a conclusion than in the case of any other fruit; the quality and flavor of the grape, and its value, particu-