

One Eumelan only reported, this grew eight feet, showed no mildew, was protected in winter.

HASTINGS.—Seven replies. In all the pear tree and plants were reported living, except one raspberry.

LAMBTON.—Twenty-three replies. The pear tree living, three blackberry and six raspberry plants reported dead. Eumelan growth varying from two to five feet, one bore two bunches of grapes, none suffered from mildew, none from the winter, four had no protection, the others a slight covering.

YORK.—Nine replies. The pear tree living, three raspberry plants and one blackberry dead. One Eumelan reported, had no winter protection, made good growth, was not injured by the winter, and was free from mildew.

## FRUITS AND FRUIT-CULTURE.

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*To the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario :*

GENTLEMEN,—It is very pleasing to note the rapidly growing interest manifested in fruit-culture, throughout the Province. But a few years since, it was generally held, that the climate of Canada, was quite unsuited to the growth and perfection of many of the finer fruits, but of late, since experiment has shown to some extent the falsity of this view, fruit-culture has been greatly stimulated; and now orchards, vineries, and small fruit patches, dot the surface of the country, at least all over this western section; and people are beginning to realize that even here, it is quite within the reach of all, to sit in summer under the shade of one's own vine, and while enjoying the cool shelter which it affords, admire the rich clusters pending from it; and before the golden autumn has gone, to gather these refreshing gifts of nature and enjoy their sweetness. We need not, however, limit our remarks to the juicy fruit of the vine; there is the rich and melting pear, the fragrant sweetness of the plum, the refreshing combination of acid, and sweet in the strawberry and raspberry, so agreeable in the heat of summer; and last, but by no means least, the numerous varieties of beautiful apples, whose richness, flavour, and long keeping qualities, enable us to prolong the pleasures of the fruit season till spring.

It would, perhaps, be interesting to look back some few centuries, and see how our forefathers were supplied with those good things; may be it will provoke in our hearts a spirit of gratitude to the Great Giver of all good, to note how much more highly favoured we are than they. With this purpose in view, it will, we think be best to take up separately some of the more important fruits, and briefly trace the history of their progress, up to their present state of perfection; and in doing so we shall draw freely from material contained in the standard works on fruits, particularly from Warder's "American Pomology," and that elaborate and exhaustive volume, the last edition of Downing's "Fruits and Fruit Trees of America." We make this acknowledgement here to avoid repetition in the text.

### THE APPLE.

We cannot do better than begin with the apple, a fruit which our climate produces in the greatest perfection, and which promises before long to hold an important place among our exports. Already our Canadian apples have such an excellent reputation in the markets of Europe, that the demand far exceeds the supply, and would probably continue to do so, were our exports increased two-fold.

The apple is mentioned several times in the Holy Scriptures; in the "Song of Solomon" three references are made to it, and there is one also in "Proverbs," "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold, in pictures of silver." It is much doubted by commentators, whether this refers to the apple as we have it, and it is more commonly held, that the word which our translators have thus rendered, refers to the citron, orange, or some other subtropical fruit.

The apple tree is a native of Europe, and the fruit was well known to the Romans. Pliny