

and plant out young trees. Some years since a gentleman in his neighbourhood wished him to send men to graft an old orchard on his place. Mr. H. advised him to cut down his old trees and plant a young orchard. He found some itinerant grafters that did the work. In three years he was so sick of the operation that he cut the whole down, and planted young trees. If the ground is well prepared by thorough deep plowing and manuring, and the trees well cultivated, young trees will bear so early as to astonish those who plant. In 1848, he furnished a gentleman with one hundred apple trees. From these trees in the fall of 1854 was picked 120 barrels of apples. They were mostly Baldwin and Greenings. Two Baldwin trees bore three barrels each.

Mr. Barber, of Ontario county, had considerable experience in grafting old orchards. He did not graft in the tops of trees, but cut off large limbs six or ten inches in diameter, or more, as the case may be. Then put in good strong scions, of some quick growing varieties, all around the limb, as thick as they can set,—about an inch apart. This must be done very early, before the sap starts. These scions grow and form a lip all around the limb of the tree, and the more feeble of these scions can be cut away. Trees treated in this way had produced three barrels the third year. Had grafted apple trees in this manner that had been broken off, leaving nothing but a stump, and pear trees that had lost the entire head by blight, and never failed to get a good top. If the grafting was done early a lot of shoots would soon appear, and furnish leaves enough to elaborate the sap.

Mr. H. E. Hooker had pursued a similar method with Pear trees that had been destroyed with blight, and with success. Also, with apple trees in a few cases.—The wood of the large limb became discolored, and showed signs of decay.

Benj. Fish thought there was no general rule for grafting old trees. If a tree had been well pruned, and well cared for, it would be grafted with success; but as farmers generally treat their trees, pruning them with an axe, they became diseased, and when a large limb of such a tree is grafted the wood decays, and the tree becomes hollow and worthless.

T. C. Maxwell said there were a number of old apple trees near Geneva, planted in the olden time, by the Indians. As the story goes, these trees were cut down by General Sullivan, on his expedition to drive the Indians from this section of the country. They show signs of having been cut down, as many of them have two trunks. These trees were grafted fifteen years since, and are now profitable trees.

Mr. Ainsworth could not approve the system pursued by Mr. Barber. The large limbs cut off for grafting would soon decay. The scions, set so thick around the limb or trunk, would form a cup where the water would remain; the wood would rot, and the tree be destroyed. Three barrels of apples from a tree the third year after grafting, he thought a pretty tough story. Always found that after a few years the fruit of a grafted tree depreciated, and the tree itself soon decayed.

Mr. Barry thought Mr. Barber showed some knowledge of Vegetable Physiology in his remarks. He was opposed, however, to grafting old trees, when in a state of decline, except in special cases—as when a person takes possession of a farm destitute of good fruit, with a few old apple trees growing. In such a case it would be well to graft, so as to have fruit enough for family use as soon as possible.

6. WINTER PEARS.—Mr. R. Robinson Scott, hoped that when gentlemen made statements in regard to Pears; their product, value, &c., they would let it be known whether such statements were *real* or *imaginary*, as an old Horticultural journal charged the members with making false statements at the last meeting. It would be well, therefore, for members who make statements to let it be understood whether they were *real* or *figurative*.

Mr. Barry said that the growing of *Winter Pears* was yet a new business. *Winter Pears* could be grown as easily as fall Pears—the only difference is the trouble of keeping the winter pears until they ripen. Most of the winter varieties will keep and ripen in barrels in the cellar, as well as apples. He had been surprised to find how little care and trouble they required. The *Easter Buerre*, *Lawrence*, and *Vicar of Winkfield* may be grown and ripened here as easily as Baldwin apples.

At this stage of the meeting Mr. Barry presented to the Convention a fine dish of *Easter Buerre Pears*, kept in a barrel in the cellar until taken out to bring to the meeting. They were tasted by members generally; and as a fine one fell to our lot, we were so much absorbed in discussing this particular pear on our own account, that we undoubtedly lost many valuable remarks that should have been noted down. When we awoke to a sense of duty, Mr. Hodge was observing that in selecting pears for market culture it was