

THE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPABILITIES OF FRUIT GROWING IN YARMOUTH CO.

The few old apple trees standing here and there in the County of Yarmouth to-day, with a height of forty to fifty feet, an equal spread of branches, and a girth of seven to eight feet, show that with the first settlement of the county, experiments in fruit culture began.

At that time the whole county was a dense forest, and the few clearings made in favorable locations, sheltered on all sides from the winds, offered much more suitable conditions for tree growth than exist now, when the winds, especially from the sea-board, sweep without obstruction over the county, cooling the atmosphere and considerably reducing the temperature. So these old trees, planted in virgin soil, and warmly sheltered, grew vigorously, standing erect, with the wide-spreading branches and the sturdy dimensions of the oak, the beech, the birch or other forest trees. Unless sheltered by hedges, trees planted now anywhere in the open ground, after a few years growth, start off towards the north-east, and upward growth ceases.

In memorial of the old settlers, we have four seedling varieties of the apple, named after their respective originators, the *Andrews' Sweet*, the *Gavel*, the *Holley* and the *Reynard*, all desirable varieties for us, and included in our prize list from year to year. Specimens of each of these varieties were in the Yarmouth County collection shewn by the Fruit Growers' Association.

The *Andrews' Sweet* is included by Mr. Downing in his third appendix, classed as very good; grown in a warmer district, it would no doubt be better in quality. It is a pleasant, tender, eating apple, medium in size, conical, yellow with a blush, in season from October to January. The *Gavel* is above medium in size, round, good either for the table or for the kitchen, in season November to February. The *Holley* and the *Reynard* are both *very large*; the former valuable for cooking, the latter is also esteemed for the table, the season for both is November to February. The *Holley* and the *Reynard* are now grown in King's County, and are occasionally shown at our Fruit Exhibitions, not only among the very largest, but of more symmetrical shape, with more color in the case of the *Holley*, and probably of much better quality than in the county of their origin. The *Northern Spy* grown in Yarmouth, is no better as an eating apple

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