

Horticultural Department.

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ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN.

DURING a short tour, in November last, through the most fertile of the flourishing States of Illinois and Wisconsin, we had an opportunity to make some notes, which may not be uninteresting to some of our readers.

The last month of autumn could not be expected to display those vast fields of corn, wheat, oats, grass, etc., growing in the greatest luxuriance, for which these States are noted; but we could witness the extensive prairies, with their rolling and gently-undulating surface, embracing the richest and most productive soil in the world.

The garnered crops, with here and there extensive fields of unhusked corn, showed that the season had been most propitious for the cultivators of the soil. Railroads, which have been built with wonderful rapidity, branching out from their common center, Chicago, are now extending their arms, furnishing a good market for all the productions of the farmer near home. Consequently he feels rich — very one that we met seemed to be well contented with his condition, and was surprised that more of our New England farmers, as well as those in the Middle States, did not try their fortunes at the West, where they will be so bountifully rewarded for their labors; particularly new beginners and others who have only a small or moderate capital.

Considering the recent settlement of the country, whose farmers are considered *old* if they have been in it ten years, the increasing attention which is being given to the cultivation of fruit, and the anxiety to obtain none but choice kinds, are remarkable. It is very evident that all varieties of fruit will thrive finely, excepting peaches and such like tender fruits, which will not succeed in the northern part of Illinois and Wisconsin, where the thermometer in the winter months will often indicate fifteen and twenty degrees below zero. In Southern Illinois, however, they flourish with the greatest luxuriance.

Fruit trees of all sorts grow with wonderful rapidity, and we think that apple, pear, plum trees, &c., will make as much wood upon their generous soil in three years, as they will with us in four and five.

We noticed many apple orchards that had been planted from four to eight years, and, during our experience, we have never seen trees that were as

handsome or as thrifty; the smooth and clean bark upon their trunks and branches was particularly observed. All hardy ornamental trees, shrubs, roses, &c., grow with equal comparative vigor.

Owing to the ease and facility with which trees are produced, and the great and increasing demand, large numbers of nurseries have sprung into existence within five years, conducted by farmers, lawyers, doctors, ex-governors, and other distinguished individuals. Their stock is yet small, and the variety limited; but they purpose to extend as their means and experience warrant.

All kinds of fruit are very scarce, and none are to be had but apples, large quantities of which have been forwarded from the eastern interior and southern parts of Michigan, by railroad, for the Chicago market.

On the plank road extending from Milwaukee north-west, we saw numbers of teams, loaded with barrels of apples, from Michigan, which were destined for places one hundred and fifty miles in the interior. This shows that they are compelled to import largely to supply the wants of home consumption; but we believe many years will not elapse when apples will be a large article of export.

Dr. PENNINGTON, a pioneer orchardist in the north-western part of Illinois, was awarded two prizes, at the New York State Fair, in October last, upon apples. He was a competitor in the list of *Foreign Fruit*, being fruit contributed by parties living out of the State, and received a silver cup for the greatest number of good varieties and best specimens — three of each — and another prize of \$10 for the best twenty varieties.

We are fully convinced that in the more Western States, all kinds of fruit trees should be grown in the half-standard or pyramid form, with stems of not more than three feet — and two feet would be ample for most; — they would then withstand the strong winds which prevail upon the prairies, and the branches would protect and shade the ground and stem of the plant or tree from the hot sun during summer.

Cherry trees budded upon the common Mazzard stock, do not seem to succeed, particularly the *Heart* and *Bigarreau* varieties; the *Duke* and *Morrello* cherries, however, succeed better. The difficulty seems to be that they make such strong growth in the autumn, the wood is but imperfectly ripened; then the sudden changes of temperature during the winter affects the sap of the tree to such an extent that the body bursts the following spring;