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THE STARK APPLE

A COMPETITOR OF THE BEN DAVIS—AS
GOOD A SHIPPER—BETTER IN QUALITY

RECENTLY we received the following letter from Mr. A. C. Sabeau, Ross-way, Nova Scotia :

SIR,—I mail you an apple for name. It was grown in a neighboring orchard under the name of Stark. The tree is a strong grower and of spreading habit. Please identify the apple and if convenient please give a description of the Stark in the Canadian Horticulturist. Is this a true Stark ; is it a fair sample compared with those grown in Ontario?

The apple came to hand in good condition, and it is a fair sample of Stark as grown here. We do not know of the variety being much grown in Ontario, except by Mr. W. H. Dempsey, of Trenton, who has a good many bearing trees, the fruit of which he often shows at our winter meetings. Mr. Dempsey considers it one of the best commercial apples and one which compares favorably with the Ben Davis for profit, while at the same time surpasses it somewhat in quality. He finds it an excellent shipper, not easily showing bruises, and a good seller in the foreign market.

The frontispiece is made from a photograph of a Stark apple grown by Mr. Dempsey in 1898, which we find in our collection. The following is a description of it.

Origin.—Ohio.

Tree.—A stout, vigorous grower, productive.

Fruit.—Large, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; form roundish, slightly one sided, somewhat conical ; skin covered with shades and splashes of light and dark red on a greenish yellow ground, thickly sprinkled with brown dots ; stalk one-half inch long, stout, in a small cavity of medium depth, calyx large, half closed in a large shallow plaited basin ; flesh yellowish white ; texture a little coarse, firm and moderately juicy ; flavor, mild subacid, good.

Season.—January to May.

Quality.—Dessert, poor ; cooking, good.

Value.—Home market, fair ; foreign market, good.

In response to our inquiries regarding the behavior of the Stark apple in Ontario, we have received the following :

W. H. Dempsey, Trenton, Ont. :—“The tree has made very rapid growth ; the foliage is large, dark green in color and somewhat subject to fungus ; very productive every alternate year ; the fruit is large, clean, dull in color and not so attractive in appearance