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THE DUCHESS OF OLDENBURG.



No apology is needed for calling the especial attention of all readers of this journal to this peerless Summer apple, which is a favorite in the cold north on account of its extreme hardiness, and in the southern parts of Ontario on account of its beauty.

The Duchess of Oldenburg is of undoubted Russian origin and of all the importations from that country up to the present it is perhaps the best. The first mention of the apple is found in the records of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, in the year 1824, under the name of Borovitsky, a modification of Borovinca, the generic name of the family, with the statement that it was sent to the society from the Taurida gardens, near St. Petersburg, in that year. In the year 1828 an illustration of the fruit appeared in "Lindley's British Fruits," highly commending it as a Summer apple, together with another Russian apple, the Sugar Loaf Pippin. Now it is widely distributed, and everywhere valued.

The tree is a vigorous grower, forming a well-shaped head that re-

quires very little pruning, and is an early and abundant bearer.

The fruit is described by Downing: "Medium size, regularly formed, roundish oblate. Skin smooth, finely washed and streaked on a yellow or golden ground. Calyx pretty large and nearly closed, set in a wide even hollow. It has a faint blue bloom. The flesh is juicy, slightly sub-acid."

With respect to the hardiness of this apple the evidence is constantly accumulating, until it has become a habit to say "as hardy as the Duchess." In the thirteenth annual report of the Montreal Horticultural Society, the Duchess receives very high commendation in this respect. Mr. R. W. Shepherd, a prominent member, says that it was the only variety in his orchard which has escaped the splitting and dying of the bark upon the trunk. He places it first in his list of apples for profit in that province, and in reply to Mr. Fisk, who ranked it second to the well known Fameuse for market, he said that it brings him a higher price per barrel than the Fameuse, and though the yield is less, it brings him fewer seconds, indeed scarcely any. It also begins to bear much earlier, often the second year after planting, while the Fameuse yields