

VALUABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING VERY HARDY TREES.

The readers of the *Canadian Horticulturist* are aware that Mr. Chas. Gibb, of Abbotsford, Province of Quebec, spent last summer in visiting the horticultural establishments of Europe, and that in a special manner he investigated the fruits and trees of Russia in the hope that he might be able to find some very hardy varieties of good quality which could be introduced into Canada, that would be valuable acquisitions, particularly in Quebec, the Algoma district of Ontario and in Manitoba. From his published notes and letters we here bring together some of the most valuable items of information, which strike us as being specially worthy of attention.

THE SCOTCH PINE, *Pinus Sylvestris*. At the ancestral house of the Vilmorins, those well known seedsmen and nurserymen of France, he found a variety of this Pine of great value, differing in its habit of growth from those that have been imported into this country hitherto, and well worthy of attention. Its habit of growth is upright and straight; the first plantation was large enough for masts of sloops and small schooners. There were plantations from the seed of those planted down to the third generation, and even the third generation of them were from twenty to thirty feet high and as straight as candles. This form of *Pinus Sylvestris* does not seed as abundantly nor does the seed germinate as certainly as that of the other forms which are comparatively of little or no value, hence the seed of commerce is that of the poorer sorts. This form of the Scotch Pine should be imported and grown in this country that its valuable timber may become a source of national wealth.

THE WHITE POPLAR, *Populus Alba*, var. *erecta*. This variety is nearly as

erect in its habit of growth as the Lombardy Poplar and is thought by Mr. Gibb to be very important both as a timber and an ornamental tree. Professor Budd, of the Iowa Agricultural College, who accompanied Mr. Gibb, says that the best forms of this White Poplar will yet become our leading lumber tree for hundreds of economic uses. Already a very considerable demand has sprung up for such wood for purposes of paper making. Cuttings of this Poplar have been ordered from Russia for trial at the Ontario Agricultural College.

THE WEEPING BIRCH, *Betula alba verrucosa*, seems to be a variety of drooping birch, with foliage like our common white birch, which Mr. Gibb thought to be specially desirable. He saw it growing upon the dry soil of the Petrovskoe Park, near Moscow, in which the avenues and groves of this birch formed the most attractive feature, presenting a charming vista of bright, translucent, white barked trunks.

THE APPLE. To his surprise, Mr. Gibb did not find what we call the Siberian Crab in Russia, save in some botanical collections. The apples that prove hardy in their colder sections are quite different races from those grown here or in Western Europe, and he has come to the conclusion that the kind of hardness we require in an apple tree, that it may thrive in our extremes of hot summers and cold winters, is not to be found in occasional individuals of the races we have, but by introducing the races of North-eastern Russia which there grow in climate so very similar to our own. There seems to be two of these races there, one of them known under the generic name of Anis, of which there are many varieties. This Anis apple he says is the leading apple of the Volga; that in latitude 55° North, in a climate of great extremes,