

Maple growing near the little district school into whose bark was cut the initials of all the boy celebrities of yours and previous generations.

Time doesn't permit any extended reference to the luscious Bartlett Pears, Black Heart Cherries, Damson, Lombard, and Gage Plums, or the juicy pippins or huge pumpkin sweet apples that used to grow on the old homestead, and that somehow, notwithstanding that they tell us fruits are constantly improving, we have never been able to taste the equal of since.

Unfortunately, it is only within the last seventy-five or one hundred years, that any serious attempts have been made to trace back the manifold forms of tree and plant life to their obscure beginnings.

Interesting as this subject is, I have only space to give you very briefly a few of the imperfect results thus far obtained in tracing back the thousands and thousands of species, (about 200,000, to be more exact), in the vegetable, plant, and tree kingdom, but let me emphasize that man has not discovered and cultivated in the last two thousand years a single species that can rival maize, rice, cereals, the potato, the date, the banana, and which date back three, four, five, and in some cases, six thousand years.

Where the Fruit Trees Originated.

Briefly the origin of the apple as far as it has been able to trace it back, is eastern Europe and Asia; the Peach, China; the Pear, Temperate Europe and Asia; the Apricot, China; the Quince, Persia; the Turnip, Western Siberia and Europe; the Watermelon, Africa; the Banana, South Asia; the Onion, Persia, Afghanistan and Palestine; the Cucumber, India; Barley, Western Temperate Asia; Rice, India and Southern China; Wheat, the regions of the Euphrates; Potato, native of Peru, Chili, Mexico; Grapes, Western Siberia and Europe; Tea plant, native of China; These are all known to have been in cultivation upwards of four thousand years.

The following very incomplete list is known to have been in cultivation

for more than two thousand years:— Radish, Temperate Asia; Carrot, Europe and Temperate Asia; Celery and Lettuce, Central and Southern Europe Northern Africa, Western Asia. Asparagus, Western Asia; the Cherry and Plum, Persia and vicinity; Oats and Rye, Eastern Temperate, Europe (says nothing about Scotch.)

Among those that have been under cultivation for less than two thousand years, can be mentioned the Orange, a native of India and China. Parsnip, central and southern Europe; Spinach, Persia; Raspberry, Temperate Europe and Asia; Strawberry, Western Asia and eastern North America.

Tobacco is a native of Central America. From the first it was detested by all Governments, Kings and Emperors prohibited its use. Cromwell sent his troops to ride down the growing crops. Chas. the Second imposed a penalty of 1600 pounds per acre and now comes along our own Government with its new taxes on our old friend and companion, yet I feel sure the herb of amiability will still flourish even as it has done since ancient times.

The Origin of the Rose.

The origin of the rose is lost in antiquity. It is certain that they abounded in Palestine and that the Jews possessed great knowledge of their culture and held them in high esteem. The Egyptians grew Roses on the bank of the Nile and as early as the days of Homer, the Greeks had them in abundance. The Romans delighted in the luxury of roses and used them in incredible quantities. Nero spent 30,000 pounds for a single rose bouquet. Then the rose found its way into Persia where love and honor awaited it.

I do not imagine our Creator ever intended to endow the earth with perfect fruits, flowers or plants in the beginning, but rather to place with us an average lot of material to work on and to leave to the ingenuity of mankind the working out of his destiny in this as in all other respects, and man being superior to the beast