

ance to know that the two oldest varieties of plums on my grounds which I planted some thirty years ago, which bore fruit last year, and look as if they will hold out some time yet, are of American origin, namely the Bolman's Washington, a native of New York City, and the Prince's Yellow Gage, a native of Long Island N. Y.

VITICULTURAL.

Grape Experience.—SIR,—With me last fall the *Prentiss*, *Worden* and *Pocklington* were worthless. The *Worden* ripened all its fruit, and some of the bunches were large. I took out my knife and cut off a fine bunch to carry it into the house, but by the time I had it cut off I had just four grapes left on the stem; they dropped so badly. I packed some to try the keeping qualities, and they all failed to be good for anything.

I have had good satisfaction with *Brighton*. I have them in good condition yet (Feb. 1) and expect to have them up to April. They are as fine yet as in November.

Has any reader of *The Horticulturist* experience with reference to the keeping qualities of the *Niagara* and *Empire State*?

My *Jessica* proved a very poor keeper. The *Jefferson* and *Lady Washington* were worthless with me. I made a frame over my vines, which were full of very fine bunches of grapes, and covered them over with glass; but all to no purpose. I will either cut them down, or graft them.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Bloomfield.

Pruning the Grapevine.—A writer in *Popular Gardening* says that the pruner invariably finds that upon a thrifty, strong growing vine, the buds upon the medium-sized canes are swelled larger and stand out from the cane more prominently, than the buds upon the largest canes.

He has tried the experiment over and over, and this is the sum of his observation, that the medium canes are the ones that develop the best fruit buds, whenever the vines are strong.

Lady Grape.—President Lyon, of Michigan, said at Chatham that this grape should be introduced into every list of grapes for home use. It stands head and shoulders above anything else. Better have a medium crop and first quality than an enormous yield of inferior fruit.

Manuring the Grape.—The Government Committee in France, after several years' investigation of the manuring of the grape and the results of a series of experiments with potash manures, report strongly against nitrogenous manures, including stable manure, as being "more hurtful than useful," which accords with common practice, also that feeble grape-vines consume as much manure as vigorous vines.

Potash should enter into the composition of manures for grape-vines, the elements in the soil being generally in bad condition for assimilation; potash carries forward in some way with it the other fertilizing principles.

Potash from the root passes to the vine, to the leaves, then to the twigs, to arrive at last at the fruit, of which it favors the development. Its migration is comparable to those of the nitrogenized elements and phosphates.

The potash introduced through the root in the course of a season is not entirely consumed, since it is found after fructification, reserved in sufficient quantity, in the wood and in the twigs.

—*Wine and Fruit Grower*.

Pruning Grapes.—SIR:—I see on page 7, January No., a correspondent advises pruning grapes in the spring and leads new beginners astray. It is too late to prune grapes when you un-