

them from breaking down with their load of fruit. In the spring of 1883 I grafted a young native tree with this variety, and last season picked therefrom nearly half a bushel of beautiful plums, many of which would not have suffered by comparison with those I saw at the Industrial and Provincial Exhibitions. I would strongly recommend this variety to all who may wish to grow fine fruit in spite of Jack Frost.

The Weaver is doubtless a near relative of our common wild plum, being as hardy, equally as prolific, and commences to bear quite as young. A small tree of this variety planted in April, 1882, bore its first crop last summer—somewhat over a peck of choice plums—which were delicious eaten from the hand. None of this variety were canned so that I am unable to speak of its cooking qualities, but I see no reason to regard it with suspicion in this respect. It must prove a profitable market plum as soon as buyers learn to distinguish it from the ordinary wild variety, to which it bears a striking resemblance. I also grow a blue plum, (a seedling) which for canning purposes is not excelled by any with which I am acquainted. It is a regular bearer, and quite hardy. The Imperial Gage, Huling's Superb, Smith's Orleans, and the German Prune also appear to thrive. The Lombard, which we are so often urged by tree pedlars to try has not proved hardy, dying back to snow line each season. To those in the East about to plant I would recommend Pond's Seedling for size and beauty, the Weaver for profit, and the Imperial Gage or Huling's Superb for quality. I cannot understand why the people of Eastern Ontario should grow those astringent little red plums, which are two-thirds pit, one-fourth skin, with just enough nutriment between to support a cur-

culio during the earlier stages of its existence, when such varieties as I have mentioned above might be grown with little more care, and but a trifling additional expense.

#### GRAPES.

The excellence of the grapes grown in this section is well known to the horticulturists of the Dominion, and while the quantity produced, especially of the earlier varieties, does not equal the demand, causing us to import from points farther west, the day is not far distant when all this will be changed, and the fruit of the vines now being planted in the Ottawa Valley will not only monopolize the home market, but largely assist in supplying the requirements of a great and growing Northwest. Nearly all the earlier varieties are being cultivated. Such a diversity of opinion exists respecting the merits of the various kinds, that one can scarcely decide which is the best for general cultivation. Very much depends upon the soil, culture, &c. Then tastes, like doctors, differ, and when this is the case each must judge for himself. While on the whole I prefer the Concord, there are many who think the Brighton and some of the Roger's should occupy the first place. Any kind ripening after the Concord would be almost worthless to us here. I am cultivating over thirty varieties, many of which come into bearing for the first time this year, and about which I shall have something to say in a future article.

The Russian Mulberry, about which so much has been said and written, fruited (!) with me for the first time last season—that is, if the tiny berry is worthy of the appellation. It was too small to see without the aid of a magnifying glass, and as sour as a Champion grape in August. The tree was planted three years since, and was then about the size of a lead pencil.