

RAISING NEW FRUITS FROM SEED.

The raising of new varieties of fruits from seed is a very interesting department of horticulture. Indeed we know of nothing more pleasing. To save the seed of some promising variety, plant, cultivate, and watch and wait for the realisation of our hopes, is a work of the most pleasurable excitement. Failure succeeds failure—not one variety in a hundred proves superior, yet the undaunted cultivator pursues his experiments, until success rewards his zealous labors. Most of our finest fruits are of recent origin, and many of them natives of our country. Prof. Kirtland's cherries, Dr. Brinckle's raspberries, and the strawberries of Hoxey and others, and several of our best pears, do our country honor throughout the civilized world. On examining an English nursery catalogue recently, we noticed that nearly all the fruits advertised as new varieties, were American seedlings. To all who are engaged in this work we say persevere,

"Give new endeavors to the mystic art,
Try every scheme and riper views impart;
Who knows what need thy labors may await?
What glorious fruits thy conquests may create?"

"These peaceful triumphs," Mr. Wilder truthfully remarks, "are worthy of the highest ambition, conquests which leave no wound on the heart of memory, no stain on the wing of time.—He who only adds one really valuable variety to our list of fruits in a public benefactor. I had rather be the man who planged that umbrageous tree, from whose bending branches future generations shall pluck the luscious fruit, when I am sleeping beneath the clods of the valley, than he who has conquered armies. I would prefer the honor of introducing the Baldwin apple, the Seckel pear, Hovey's Seedling strawberry, aye, or the Black Tartarian cherry from the Crimea, to the proudest victory which has been won upon that blood-stained soil."

We have noticed this season several very promising seedling currants, that bid fair to excel the best English sorts, which we hope to make a good report of next summer.

We have just received from the New Lebanon Society of Shakers, a box of Gooseberries, of a dark purplish color, good flavor, and rather less than medium size, though larger than Houghton's seedling. It must be very productive, as the branches were loaded with fruit, and as it is a native and not subject to mildew, is a desirable acquisition. Accompanying the fruit, was the following note:—"I send you a small box of gooseberries, the *Mountain Seedling*, not so much for their size, as for their superior flavor and productivity. The bush grows from six to seven feet high, and loaded all the way up, as you see the branches I send you, are with fruit. It is perfectly hardy and free from blight. It was discovered growing wild some ten years since, and has been proved side by side with other varieties, both foreign and domestic, and we have found that while other varieties mildew and cast their fruit, the *Mountain Seedling* has improved year by year."

Much discussion has been had on the best method of producing improved varieties of fruit from seed, and the most eminent Pomologists disagree on this subject. Our advice, however, is to plant the best seeds of the finest varieties, take good care of the plants, and trust to Providence for the result.

We caution all persons against purchasing any new varieties of fruit sent out with flourish of trumpets, at high prices, as by doing so, they will most assuredly get cheated. Whenever a new claimant for the public favor appears, its merits should be canvassed thoroughly and carefully by disinterested and competent persons, and whenever practicable, it should be presented to some Horticultural Society, and if deemed of sufficient importance, a committee should be appointed to examine the fruit, the habit, growth and productiveness of the plant or tree, the nature of the soil, manner of cultivation, and such other things as they may deem important. This committee should publish their report for the benefit of the public. If after full investigation, they should deem it an important acquisition, planters would buy with confidence; if they considered it unworthy of general cultivation, it would prevent the reading public from being cheated. If they should think another trial necessary, it would be for the true interest of both buyer and seller to have this trial made before the plant or tree was offered for sale. We protest most decidedly against the patent medicine system of puffing a new fruit or flower.—*Rural New Yorker*.

To KEEP FLOWERS.—To preserve flowers in water, mix a little carbonate of soda in it and it will keep them a fortnight.