

## MICHIGAN FRUIT GROWERS.



FIG. 1500.—PRESIDENT JAMES B. ANGELL.

Detroit, also promised a copy of his address on "Object Lessons in City Parks," so we omit our notes on these valuable papers.

### ARE WINTER PEARS PROFITABLE

was a question which was answered doubtfully. Mr. Kellogg included Kieffer in his list for profit. In December last year he was offered 50c. a bushel for them, but he held till January, when they yellowed up beautifully and brought \$2 a bushel. Even its quality seems to improve, if properly ripened, while for canning it is as good as Bartlett.

Mr. James B. Angell, President of Michigan University, gave an interesting address on Turkey, having himself resided there three years, as U. S. minister.

That country is fossilized—it has not changed for 500 years, and is a long way behind us in horticulture, as well as every other interest. Their apples, peaches, plums and pears are far in-

ferior, their cherries and apricots are good, and the only fruit in which they excel, and which they export in any quantity are figs. But their methods of cultivation are of the most primitive character. Their plow merely scratches the surface of the ground. There is no local mail in Constantinople, and no public roads in the country, so that all products have to be transported on the backs of animals. Is it then any wonder that there is no encouragement to commercial horticulture.

### THINNING FRUITS

was treated by Prof. S. A. Beach, of Geneva. We must use every method he said to secure high grade fruit. Thinning was long practiced by the gardeners of the nobility in England, but only recently is being adopted in American commercial orchards as a profitable investment.

He had experimented with three varieties of apples, and found in each case an improvement in size and color. The Greening had actually given him a greater quantity of fruit than where it had not been thinned, the Baldwin and the Hubbardston gave 10 or 16 per cent. more of 1st class fruit, but the unthinned gave the greatest quantity, all grades being counted. He had thinned the apples to four inches apart.

More decided results were obtained in the case of peaches, which he had thinned from four to six inches apart. The thinned fruit weighed nine to the pound, and the unthinned, twelve; and the trees themselves were less subject to disease, hence the benefit was not merely annual. In years of abundance, thinning peaches would certainly pay, even at a cost of from 5 to 10 cents per tree.

President Morrill had practised thinning peaches on a large scale. He had about 100 acres in peaches at Benton