

the type. It originated in northern Iowa, and was introduced by Ennis & Patten, of Charles City, Iowa, in 1875. Its merits seem to have been unduly lauded by dealers in nursery stock, who sold single trees as high as a dollar and a half. A reaction took place when growers found that it was simply an improved variety of the native plum, and we find this feeling recorded in the report of the Iowa State Association for 1878, when the Weaver was stricken from the list of recommended plums.

At the last meeting of our Society, during the course of a discussion on native plums, the fact was brought out that another variety has been introduced under the same name, which has been grown and has borne fruit in the vicinity of Grimsby. This variety ripens early in August, whereas the true Weaver is one of the latest of the *Prunus Americana* family. Three trees of Weaver planted at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, in 1888, have borne heavy crops the last four seasons. During '92 and '93 the crop has been so heavy as to require thinning to prevent the branches from breaking down. Fruit large for a native, oblong, somewhat flattened. Skin yellow, partly covered with a mottling of dark red, and overlaid with a purplish bloom, suture well marked, stone long, narrow and flat, semi-cling, ripens at Ottawa about Sept. 20th.

This variety is not equal in quality to De Soto, but is well worthy of cultivation where blue plums and members of that variety are not sufficiently hardy.

Ottawa.

J. CRAIG.

**Melons with Strawberries.**—Jacob Smith, Lockport, Illinois, has a novel method of caring for his strawberry plants during the first summer. Thorough cultivation of the plants during the first season is practised by successful fruit-growers generally. Keeping them free from weeds and the soil loose requires frequent cultivation and is quite an expense for which, ordinarily, the next year's crop of berries are the compensation. As an experiment several years ago, Mr. Smith tried planting watermelon vines among the rows of one plot of strawberries, cultivating an adjoining plot in the usual way. He found that the plot with the melon vines did better than the other, both in this and subsequent trials, and the melons paid for the cultivation of the plot. After satisfying himself that watermelon vines did not injure the strawberries, or, as he declares, helps by serving as a green mulch, he tried planting muskmelons among them, and reports even better results from this practice, the vines making a thicker covering and a better mulch. He has a nice field of strawberries growing this season with a good crop of muskmelons among them, which are doing well considering the dry weather. Small fruit-growers should remember this plan and try it next season, for it is certainly a great waste not to grow melons among the strawberries the first year, if it improves them and pays for cultivation.—Orange Judd Farmer.