

"Though my experience in the growing of this plum has not been fortunate, I am inclined to regard it very highly. In 1888, on seeing favorable mention made of it by Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, I received from them a few scions, from which I propagated several fine trees and grafts, but lost all of them but two grafts—one of which was inserted in a bearing tree, and the other in a small seedling which was protected by the snow—by the severe weather of December, 1892, and of January and February, 1893. The graft on the bearing tree, though apparently dead, also revived the following summer, and bore about twenty-five plums, which, though much shaded by surrounding branches, attained a good size and appearance, and a sample of them I exhibited in two of my collections of plums which took first prizes last year at the Industrial Fair at Toronto, and at which the judges, I was informed, regarded my Grand Dukes with much favor. In appearance, quality and size it resembles the Bradshaw somewhat, but I think its color, when grown in a more favorable exposure, will be darker than that variety. It ripened ten days before the Peach plum. Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry reported it exempt from rot, but I did not find it so, as several samples decayed very badly."

Mr. John Craig, Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, writes on the 15th ult. as follows: "I can give you very little in the way of personal experience regarding Grand Duke plum. It was discussed at the meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society, Jan., 1893, where Mr. S. D. Willard included this variety in a list of twelve best plums. It was included principally on account of its lateness and handsome appearance, as well as good quality. It was not included, however, in a list of the six best plums, offered by the same gentleman. The tree, in common with most other varieties of *Prunus domestica*, has failed at the Experimental Farm. I may say that it is being planted to a considerable extent, partly, I suppose, on account of judicious advertisement, in the Annapolis Valley, N.S. I have always been impressed with the handsome appearance of the fruit."

THE HOWEL PEAR.

In the October number of the HORTICULTURIST of 1893, I was much pleased to see a beautiful cut of the Howel pear. Having had a remarkable experience with it, I relate it for the benefit of others. About 30 years ago I planted 75 pear trees, mostly standards. There were about 15 varieties, and among them the Howel. In 10 years one half had blighted and died, in 20 years there were only five left and in 25 years every one was dead but Howel. It is still living and bears a full crop of perfect pears almost every year. The tree is not large, it has borne so very heavy that the growth of wood has been slow.

The soil is a gravelly loam; about three feet below the surface is a bed five or six feet deep of dry open gravel, just above the gravel there is ten to twelve inches of pretty stiff clay.

St. Marys.

S. H. MITCHELL.