

Potomac Fruit Growers.

This society held its March meeting, on the 11th inst., C. Gillingham, president, in the chair, and P. H. Foulson secretary.

A pleasant display of fruit was on the table. Professor Wm. Saunders exhibited a box containing four varieties of water apples, from Greensboro, North Carolina.

Judge Gray exhibited five varieties of winter apples, well preserved, embracing Winter, Lewisburg Blush, Winesap and others.

Mr. Kickum exhibited two handsome pears, in the preservation. Major J. H. King reported in favor of a new fruit crate or basket.

Mr. Kickum, presented some cuttings of the tree from the pear for the use of the society. He said the pear is called the "Stull," an excellent keeper.

Major King said he thought it a valuable acquisition to the society in the pear line. Professor Saunders thought it the Beurre d'Ardenne, at least it was supposed to be such.

On motion the society proceeded to test the fruits on exhibition. All were prized, and the Tewksbury Blush was the favorite.

Major Jones and Judge Gray made remarks about keeping apples saying the ciders should be too dry or tight.

In regard to the Carolina fruit, Mr. Saunders thought the Clarke's Pearmain the best of the lot.

Colonel S. E. Chamberlain spoke of the fact before us, that northern fruit taken south did not succeed, but that southern varieties taken north do succeed well.

Carolina apples succeed in Virginia, while northern ones do not; and this was sustained by Mr. Saunders and other members.

A general discussion was enjoyed in regard to different varieties of apples, with reference to markets, cider, &c.

Mr. Pearson, Dr. Howland, Mr. Needham and others took part in the debates. President Gillingham read an interesting and useful paper, in regard to the insects which are injurious to orchards and fruits; enjoying our efforts for their destruction; and showing the importance of fruit-growing in our country.

Mr. Saunders spoke of the value of the Jamnetta pear, as one of the very best. He asked what insects prevent us from getting fruit. He thought we need not seriously be prevented from raising fruit by them.

Members made some attack against the honey-bee, when Major King made a plea in its favor, showing some of its benefits. This discussion on the bee was prolonged to some length, when Mr. Gray suggested feeding the orchard with buckwheat, which feeds bees, hives, and the soil.

Mr. Saunders knew insects do injury, but do not prevent us from getting plenty of fruit.

Remarks were made in regard to cherries, and it was shown that this is a favorable section for the raising of cherries. Figs were spoken of. Mr. Saunders said they were a profitable crop to raise, and should be introduced.

Captain Smith said he had grown figs, and could do it successfully.

Mr. Saunders said we can grow our own figs, ginger, nut, rhubarb, and other articles in this region.

Adjourned till first Tuesday in April.

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