

The Bad and The Good

A recent letter from one of our readers emphasized a point of view to which we should give serious attention. He stated "The nursery catalogs describe all their apples as dark rich red, fruit large, good quality and keeper, early to come into bearing, and productive. The implication is that the fruits have no faults. But a man setting an orchard also wants to know something about the bad points that all apples have."

It is true that the virtues of different fruit varieties are often exaggerated in nursery catalogs. However, it is likewise true that good salesmanship is usually based on the good points of a product and not on its faults. Nurseries might therefore be considered to be "doin' what comes natcherly", as long as their catalog descriptions are basically honest.

It does seem however that the value of a variety is frequently as closely associated with its bad as with its good characteristics. For this reason we should consider all factors when evaluating fruits. The grower, when planning a new planting, should recognize the weaknesses of the old varieties and be willing to discard them in favor of newer, superior sorts. All too frequently the varieties in a new planting are selected on the basis of sentiment or thoughtless repetition of older orchards rather than on critical evaluation of the characteristics which may have an appreciable influence on the success or failure of the new enterprise.

