After listening to Mr. Wakefield's paper the Convention adjourned until 7:30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, June 24, 1885.

The convention was called to order by President Smith at 7:30 o'clock.

The committee on programme had arranged to have the paper of Mr. Gibson, on "Shall We Plant Crab Apples." Mr. Gibson was not present, but the following letter was read by Mr. Plumb:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

When it was decided to hold this session of the State Horticultural Society at Weyauwega, I was requested by some of the members of the County Horticultural Society to furnish a paper for this meeting. I consented to do so, and chose for my subject, "Shall We Encourage the Planting of Crab Apples." At that time, with my fruit cellar well filled with choice standard apples, I thought it unnecessary to grow such inferior fruit as crab-apples, but upon looking over my orchard this week and finding my standards all dead or dying, the crabs all thrifty and loaded with fruit, poor though it may be, I could not condemn them, and concluded to withhold my paper from the Society, and offer this as my apology for doing so. I find after more than thirty years' experience in growing apples in Wisconsin, I have learned but little about the business. I do not know how to save my trees. Brother horticulturists, can you tell me how?

Respectfully,

Hollis Gibson.

Lind, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

The following report was presented by J. P. Roe:

REPORT ON CONDITION OF WISCONSIN FRUIT IN HORTICULTURAL HALL, NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION, AT DATE OF MARCH 30, 1885.

By J. P. Roe.

About the latter part of February or the 1st of March, a request was received from Mr. Springer that notes should be made of the keeping qualities of the seedlings from his section. At the date of his letter we were too ill to attend to it in person and requested a friend to give it his attention. This he promised to do but we fear that it was overlooked.
It was not until the 30th of March that we were able to give it our personal attention, and visited Horticultural Hall on that errand. We found that the exhibit of Wisconsin fruit had been moved from its former location at the entrance of Horticultural Hall, to a side table on the left hand, south of the fountain. I learned that much of our fruit had been stolen by the night watchmen—indeed things reached that pass that about this time the nightwatch was discharged and the Hall only left locked at night. Of course the long weeks of exposure under a semi-tropical sun had had their effect, and it must be borne in mind too that our Wisconsin fruit had at the outset been seriously injured by neglect and overheating in cases, and the consequent appearance of of the fruit was (as the writer was assured by the chairman of the committee on awards) the sole reason that Wisconsin did not take the sweepstakes premium of the gold medal and two hundred dollars, as awarded for the largest and best show of not less than 200 varieties.

The section to which Wisconsin belongs, being north of parallel 40° north latitude, and east of the Rocky Mountains, including the Atlantic sea board, New England, the North-Middle and North-Western states to the Canadas, is the largest apple growing section in the world. We might say the natural habitat of the apple that here in its own special realm, and in that magnificent assemblage of the belles of the orchard, that a Wisconsin seedling should bear off the palm for size and beauty in that acknowledged to be the largest and finest collection the world has seen, is a matter of which every Badger state man and woman should be proud, and the citizens of Waupaca county in particular; for in that splendid collection of new and choice seedling apples, by which the citizens of Waupaca county have added so much to the wealth and happiness of the state at home, and the honor of the state abroad. The Wolf River takes the lead out of the few scattering survivors of the hundreds of varieties sent out from our state, which remained on the tables the 30th of March. The best plate then was the Wolf River. Our note reads as follows: March 30th., Wisconsin fruit on hand. "Wolf River fine plate." Of the Waupaca county
seedlings standing well up were "Wrightman, Wrightman's Winter Blush, Lovejoy, Blanche, Nora, Bertha, Baker's Sweet, Bloomfield, Daniel, Vosburg, Barnard's Red Winter, Long John, Longfield, Bone's Greening, North-Western Greening, Thina, David's Seedling, Plymouth, also Wealthy and the Russian Repka Malinka, Winter Pepper, Canada Red and Red Seek and Feather.

The splendid results obtained at New Orleans with the magnificent showing of seven silver medals out of the sixteen obtainable, of the highest per centage of cash premiums and largest number of premiums and the largest amount in cash of any state of the great section referred to; the finest plate of apples of over 20,000 plates on exhibition, all this belongs to Wisconsin and largely to the horticultural taste and enterprise of the wide-awake public spirited citizens of Waupaca county. While by common consent the winter convention held at Waupaca was pronounced the best ever held under the auspices of the Northern Fair. May the like be said of the summer’s gathering under the auspices of the State Horticultural Society at Weyauwega. It was the intelligent enthusiastic co-operation of the community which made the former a success. May the like be true of the latter.

We would say in conclusion, that the extraordinary size and beauty of the fruit sent out from Waupaca county has justly won the admiration of the horticultural world. Now in this period of calamity, when the orchards throughout the state are showing how severe the blow dealt by the excessive cold of the past winter — long to be remembered as the cold winter of 1884 and 5 — in the total break down of our iron-clad list, the eyes of the state again turn toward the seedlings of Waupaca county. If they bear off the palm for hardiness as they have done for size, quality and beauty, our highest hopes will be realized and will make the whole state your debtors.

The president invited the friends from Waupaca county to discuss Mr. Gibson's letter. Mr. Wakefield said that six
or eight years ago he set out a number of apple trees, about half of them crabs. At that time Mr. Gibson asked him why he did not set out standard varieties, and did not see the wisdom of setting out crab apples. Mr. Wakefield said that he was going to have apples this year and Mr. Gibson was not, except crabs. Although we must keep on trying to raise standard apples, Mr. Wakefield thinks we must have something else to fall back upon. Crabs are worth raising, and the majority of the varieties of crabs had by Wakefield came through the winter in good shape. Mr. Rhodes said that he had no reason to be dissatisfied with crab apples. Upon coming to Wisconsin, Mr. Rhodes was advised to plant crabs, and did so, setting out about seventy-five Hyslops, twenty-five Transcendents and some others. None of the kinds set out have blighted except the sweet crab. One variety of the sweet crab, the Soulard, has not proved hardy. In Mr. Rhodes’ opinion, crab apples are profitable to raise, for they always bring a good price and have at times brought even more than the standard varieties. The Hyslop he finds a good keeper, being in its prime until February. The Transcendent does not keep as well. In reply to a question, Mr. Rhodes stated that a portion of his orchard had been cultivated, and a portion not. In the cultivated portion ev-everything has died out except the Duchess and Transcendent.

Miss Lewis now read her paper on “The Mistletoe.”

THE MISTLETOE.

By Miss Jessie R. Lewis, Madison.

The mistletoe is a plant we are all especially interested in on account of the many superstitions, associations and legends connected with it, also because of its peculiar life and growth.

The mistletoe has been held in high honor in England from the days of the Britons to our own time, only the oak on which it grew and is still occasionally found has associations more venerable and historic.

3—Hort.