

time as Bidwell, lasts nearly as long, and tastes about as good. It does not bear quite so well as Bidwell with me, but I find that it does better than Bidwell with some of my friends. In truth it seems to be adapted to a wider range of soils than Bidwell; so that if a person had rich, moist soil, about half sand and half clay, I would recommend Bidwell first, but if his soil happened to be very light sand, or stiff clay, or very loose and gravelly, I would say Seneca Queen. In appearance, both of plant and berry, these varieties are very unlike, the Bidwell's leaves spreading out wide, especially the first year, and the fruit being long and pointed, while the leaves of the Seneca Queen stand very erect, and the large, flattened fruit ripens all over at once, with nothing of the white tip so often seen in the Bidwell. On equally good soil I think the berries of Seneca Queen average rather larger than Bidwell or even Sharpless, and the colour is peculiarly attractive.

Towards the end of the strawberry season we find in its prime the royal

*Sharpless*.—It cannot compare in productiveness with any of the others just described; but it is so large and delicious and late, that no collection would seem complete without it. I have not seen any other variety yet which will give so large specimens. I weighed one from my grounds that went an ounce and a half, and I have no doubt that larger berries could easily be raised. The plant is very large and healthy, and with plenty of manure and runners cut off, it will give fine crops.

*Manchester* ripens about with *Sharpless*. Some specimens are nearly as large as the largest *Sharpless*, and the average was larger with me last summer. The berry is remarkably smooth, uniform and handsome, the crop fully as large, I think, as Bidwell—larger than that of any other I have men-

tioned—and the quality about as good as Bidwell or *Sharpless*. This fine variety should never be left out; but as the blossoms are imperfect it should have every fifth row planted with *Sharpless* or some other late flowering and perfect-blossomed kind, or many of the blossoms will fail to produce fruit.

Most of these varieties are excellent for market—especially for a near market—but as I have aimed to speak of varieties for home use, I have passed by the market value in describing each.

There are other varieties, such as *Parry*, *Early Canada*, *Atlantic*, etc., that are coming rapidly to the front in value for home use.

But with these four varieties—say 100 plants of each—a family of five could be supplied with delicious strawberries through the first four weeks of the time when fruit is most needed, with some to preserve for winter.

Any good nurseryman should supply the plants for three or four dollars—a moderate cost for such a luxury—for an equal amount of fruit from the grocer's would cost \$10 at least, and not taste half as good.

#### THE DOUBLE POPPY.

The best plant at present known for consolidating, by the interlacing of its roots, the loose soil of a newly made embankment is, according to M. Cambier, of the French Railway Service, the *Double Poppy*. While the usual grasses and clovers need several months for the development of their comparatively feeble roots, the *Double Poppy* germinates in a few days, and in two weeks grows enough to give protection to the slope, while at the end of three or four months, the roots, which are ten or twelve inches long, are found to have interlaced so as to retain the earth far more firmly than those of any grass or grain. Though the plant is an annual, it sows itself after the first