

another beautiful low-growing species, producing brilliant blue flowers, with a yellow or white eye. *Gentiana Oliveri* is a lovely species, not long introduced from Turkestan; the flowers are large and very numerous, borne on slender stems about a foot in height, and are of a brilliant, sky-blue colour. Among our natives, *Gentiana Andrewsii* and *alba* are worthy of cultivation; the flowers of both of these are white or whitish. It should, however, be mentioned that the Gentians are not so easily grown from seed as the other flowers which have been named; favourable conditions are required to bring about germination.

I have but touched on a corner of a vast field where the most ardent florist may find new and varied treasures at every hand, and reap a harvest of beauty each succeeding year throughout a long life, and at its close still leave ungarnered a multitude of gems.

During the past winter an important fruit exhibition was held in connection with the New Orleans Exposition, when some 20,000 plates of fruit were shown. This was probably the largest display of fruit ever brought together, and one in which the different States in the Union competed with each other with commendable zeal, sparing no pains or expense in the endeavour to make their several exhibits as complete and attractive as possible. Ontario had no Provincial exhibit, but was represented by a collection of about sixty varieties of apples contributed by fruit-growers in the London District, and smaller collections from Prince Edward County and from Goderich. Notwithstanding the immense competition, we succeeded in carrying off first prizes for Esopus Spitzenburg and Ribston Pippin; and our collections were much admired, and highly commended.

Almost every season brings some new seedling fruit of value to light. Last February, Mr. M. S. Park, of Cornwall, sent to your President a new seedling apple of much promise. Samples were also sent to the Secretary, who published a description of it in the March number of the *Horticulturist*. After commenting highly on its beauty, he says:—"It is too acid as tested by us to be generally relished as a dessert fruit, perhaps later in the season the acidity may become less prominent." My specimens were kept several weeks before they were eaten, and I find in my notes referring to it, that I have designated it as "high flavoured," and very good. It is certainly deserving of extended trial.

Late last Autumn I opened a correspondence with the Director of the Government Experimental Gardens in Tokio, Japan, Sen Tsuda, and forwarded to him some thirty packages containing plants of most of our leading varieties of strawberry, raspberry, currant and gooseberry. These reached their destination in very good condition, and were much appreciated. There was sent me in return seeds of a number of varieties of flowers and shrubs, the larger portions of which were distributed to applicants in different parts of the Province. No reports have yet been received from the recipients, but a considerable proportion of those planted by myself have germinated, and are growing nicely. Scions of some of the best plums grown in Japan, and small rooted plants of their grapes were also sent, but owing to imperfect packing and long exposure, they were quite dead before they reached their destination. Mr. Tsuda is a highly intelligent gentleman, and a leader in horticulture in that interesting country from whence we have already received so many good things. It is hoped that mutual interchange of products will result in valuable acquisitions on both sides, and while lending a helping hand to lovers of fruits and flowers in that distant land, we may receive from them accessions to our lists which may prove both interesting and valuable.

The work undertaken by our Association in disseminating valuable products, and useful information in all departments of horticulture is a vast one, and what a privilege it is to be permitted to engage in so noble and benevolent an undertaking, as that of aiding in furnishing gorgeous flowers and luscious health-giving fruits to the present and future generations. Let us all labour earnestly in the several stations in which Providence has placed us, striving to leave our impress on the plastic forms which a bounteous nature has spread before us on every hand, aiding in developing new forms of beauty; our labours shall be crowned with a glorious harvest, and when we shall have passed away, the results of our work will live, and we shall be gratefully remembered by those that follow us.

On motion of Mr. Morton, seconded by Col. McGill, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Saunders for his address.

A committee was then appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

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