

feet high, upon a base made of evergreens, and was entirely composed of cut flowers, with a diameter of seven feet. On the top of this floral design was the representation of a church tower in which hung a great bell. Along the ceiling of the hall was suspended, in imitation of arches, nine huge baskets of evergreens. The whole was unique, requiring only to be seen to be ever after remembered. It was facetiously remarked that the attendance of delegates was so large and enthusiastic, that the hotels were being filled with fine looking old gentlemen of an agricultural cast of countenance, whose daily walk and conversation imparted a Horatian flavour to the feverish metropolis, and whose presence gave a decidedly bucolic appearance to the streets of Philadelphia. (That could not have meant me.)

I wish here to bear testimony to the marked liberality displayed by our American friends in the attention and kindness extended to the members and delegates in attendance at the Great Fruit Convention. Most particularly should acknowledgments be made to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which secured for our enjoyment and pleasure free access to all the objects of Horticultural interest in and around Philadelphia, a programme of which was printed for our guidance, and indeed if we could have availed ourselves of all these sights it would have entailed a month's residence.

His Honor, Daniel M. Fox, welcomed the officers, members and delegates in Independence Hall, which was placed at their disposal during the session. This building contains the portraits of celebrated and public men, in oil paintings of great value, besides these were many other objects of curiosity and interest. In front of this building has recently been placed a fine statue of Washington. The business of the Convention was brought to a close on Friday, the 17th of September, after listening to an able address delivered by the President, Honourable M. P. Wilder. Several invitations were read and accepted, among which was one to visit the Academy of Natural Science, another Fairmount Park, a third Vineland, besides other places of interest. Then the question as to where the next Biennial Meeting should be held arose. The delegates from Boston, Mass., Richmond, Va., Newport, Geneva, N.Y., Tennessee, Cal-

ifornia, Kansas, and other places, urged their respective places as suitable, and offered the most liberal inducements to secure the session. A vote was taken, which resulted in favour of Richmond, Va. Therefore, the next great meeting will be holden there, in September, 1871.

At the close of the Session, in the evening a grand banquet was given to the delegates and members of the Convention, and many carried with them to their distant homes a pleasant recollection of the good cheer and smiling faces of their Philadelphia friends.

I regret that I had not been commissioned by the Council of Agriculture, on behalf of the Province of Ontario, to extend an invitation to this useful Society to have one of its sessions in this Province. I should have had great pleasure in doing this, because I feel justified in stating that such an invitation would have been cordially appreciated, and with a reasonable prospect of its being accepted; and for the further reason, that among no other body of men do we find more harmony of feeling than prevails among Fruit Growers. Whatever be their nationality, they meet on common ground, freed from the discord of politics, bent upon the common study of those laws which reveal to our understanding a unity of interest in human action and a universal brotherhood.

As Toronto is the capital of the Province, it would appear the most suitable place for such a Convention, and it is to be hoped, that an invitation will be extended to this Society at its next meeting in 1871, with something like commensurate liberality.

Although among the three thousand two hundred and fifty-five plates of fruits in the Convention Hall, many of high excellence might be selected, yet upon the whole, I am convinced, taking plate for plate, or quantity for quantity, in drawing a comparison between the fruit products of the neighbouring States and of our own favoured Province of Ontario, we should excel in those fruits grown in our country, probably with the single exception of out door grapes, they having a more extended range of favourable climate; herein they appear to great advantage. I was particularly pleased with the beauty and quality of some of Rogers' Hybrids, also with a grape shown, I think, by a Mr. Underhill, called