

THE
Canadian Horticulturist.

VOL. IX.]

MAY, 1886.

[No. 5.

THE BELMONT STRAWBERRY.

This new strawberry, an engraving of which appears in this number instead of our usual colored plate, was raised by Messrs. Warren Heustis & Son, Belmont, Mass., U.S.A. It has been tested by them for four years, and they say that they have found it to do well on both heavy and light soils. They also state that the plant is of such vigorous growth that it can mature an abundant crop of fruit, which can remain a long time on the vines without injury; they having realized from 10,700 square feet of ground, scarcely a quarter of an acre, the net sum of \$596.

The originators describe the berry as large, oblong in shape, crimson in color, very solid and sweet, and of extra flavor and quality; also that it colors evenly and perfectly, having no hard or unripe spots, and is quite remarkable as a carrier and keeper.

This plant is also said to produce perfect blossoms, yielding an abundance of pollen to fertilize the fruit; and that the blossoms open so late that they escaped a frost which occurred at Belmont on the thirtieth of May, 1884, injuring seriously all other varieties.

The Fruit Committee of the Massa-

chusetts Horticultural Society in the Report for 1883, state that the special prize of ten dollars offered by the Hon. M. P. Wilder, for the four quarts of the variety of finest form, color, and quality, was awarded to this new seedling, which in color and quality resembles the Sharpless, but is much better in form.

In the Report for 1884, this Committee states that they visited Mr. Heustis' grounds on the 21st of June, and found the vines to be of unusually strong growth, and bearing an exceedingly heavy crop of fruit; that the berries were of large size, good form and color, quality very much like the Sharpless, and that the firmness of the flesh, and exceptionally good keeping quality of the fruit, must make this a desirable market variety.

Some of the dealers in fruits in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass., say that the fine flavor, aroma, and color, together with its splendid keeping qualities, make the Belmont by far the best they handle, selling during the past two seasons at least one-third higher than any other berry of its season. The *American Cultivator*, published in Boston, stated last July that the Belmont sold