

# HISTORY OF FRUIT CULTURE IN CANADA.

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A sheltered Acadian valley snugly ensconced between two protecting mountain ranges; the sloping land to the east of the bold heights of the Citadel, Quebec; the plains which nestle around the Royal Mount at the confluence of the Ottawa river with the St. Lawrence—these were the places selected by the early French colonists to make their first experiments in horticulture.

Before their arrival in Canada, the Norse mariner, Lief Ericsson, had visited the Acadian Valley in 1000 A. D., and given it the name of Vinland because of the grapes which grew there in abundance.

Some of the old Indian names ending in Acadia attest the plentifulness of various kinds of wild fruits along the Atlantic littoral.

When Cartier visited the River St. Lawrence in 1535, he came to a spacious green island possessed of such an affluence of grapes that he named it the Isle of Bacchus. When he went up the river to the slopes of the mountain, which he fitly named Montreal, he was greeted by the red men with a feast of corn, pease, beans and cucumbers, and solaced with an after-dinner pipe of tobacco. In 1541 his men sowed turnip seed opposite Cape Diamond.

When 60 or 70 years after Cartier's visit to the New France of Verazzano, DeMonts landed at Port Royal, Acadia, he found the natives growing corn to which Poutrincourt added wheat, having brought with him the seed from Old France.

Going across the Bay of Fundy (French Bay, they called it), they were delighted with the clusters of grapes they discovered on the vines that grew at the base of the limestone cliffs of the St. John river.

When Champlain, in the first decade of the seventeenth century, sailed up the St. Lawrence intent on colonization, he carried with him some apple shoots which had been provided by the foresight of DeMonts.

Champlain planted gardens both on the northern shores of the beautiful basin of Port Royal and on the northern banks of the St. Lawrence; the first (called to this day "the French garden") between two mountain-fed streams that flowed into the beautiful basin, and the second in the neighborhood of Cape Diamond. In 1609, Champlain