

will keep well, but as for quality it is worthless. It might be better in Ontario than in Nova Scotia, just as most kinds are. However it was as an export apple that the Nonpariel was commended, Mr. Brown continues, and that is all right; one will hardly find a dozen really good judges of quality among one's own friends in the best fruit countries, how can we expect to find them among millions.

#### CACTUS FRUIT.

We have received from J. P. Cockburn, of Gravenhurst, a sample of fruit which he described in his letter as a new fruit of Muskoka production, that had been just one year in coming to its present ripe condition. He says, "I have not tested any but presume they are good to eat, at least it has the fragrance of a ripe pine apple. Is it common? I have never seen it before. The flowers dry on the end of the fruit and remain there until it is ripe."

We replied that we had never seen the fruit before, but presumed it to be the fruit of some species of cactus, and requested him to tell us what species it was. In answer he sent to us another sample of the fruit with the flower adhering and the whole yet growing from a piece of the parent cactus plant. In his letter accompanying the second specimen he says, "I do not know the specific name, it is generally known, I believe, as the Sword Cactus; but I am of the opinion that this is not the correct name. I am told that they are very good to eat and considered a great boon to the weary traveller in some parts of Mexico and southern Texas."

The piece of the plant to which the fruit was adhering greatly resembles one of the Epiphyllums. The fruit is about an inch long, somewhat fig-shaped, of a deep red color, which color continues through the pulp, the fragrance somewhat like that of the pine apple,

and the taste like a podophyllum, *May Apple*.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Association of Nurserymen, Florists and Seedsmen is to be held in the buildings of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, District of Columbia, U.S.A. on the 16th of June next, continuing three days. Any information concerning programme of proceedings, hotel and railroad arrangements can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, D. Wilnot Scott, Galena, Illinois, U. S. A.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Is offering special prizes for Hybrid Perpetual Roses at the coming Rose Show, June 22 and 23rd., 1886. A prize of \$30 is offered for the best 24 Roses, named; \$25 for the best 18; and \$15 for the best 12, all named.

#### QUESTION DRAWER.

##### MEMBERSHIP IN FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

DEAR SIR,—I am well pleased with the *Canadian Horticulturist*. Could you let me know the conditions of membership in the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, also the rights and privileges of a member. An answer in the *Horticulturist* or otherwise will oblige,

Yours truly,

J. K. DARLING.

REPLY.—Every subscriber to the *Canadian Horticulturist* becomes entitled to membership in the Fruit Growers' Association, the rights and privileges of which are: 1st. To receive a copy of the Annual Report. 2nd. To receive such article from the