

profusion. There are also four other tanks in the angles of the house, in which various kinds of water plants are growing. Near the gardens is the beautiful villa residence of Sir Joseph Paxton, a large well-proportioned building in the Anglo Italian style of architecture, with its fine green house and conservatory on either side.

What a lesson does a visit to this Ducal residence impart! Here is a collection on a gigantic scale of the choicest productions of plants, fruits and flowers from all parts of the world, arranged in buildings equalled in beauty only by their extent, adjacent to a mansion of noble aspect and proportions, abounding in works of rarest art, and all got together and sustained at the expense of one individual, a nobleman whom Horticulturists will not fail to honor to the latest posterity. It was here that Paxton entered as a poor boy to work in the gardens, and by the force of skill and character rose to the level of the Duke's companion, and has been invested by his sovereign with the order of knighthood, and made by the public a member of the British House of Commons! True, but few individuals can reach such extraordinary distinction, but let every young gardener, however humble his lot, bear the principle in mind that talent and perseverance, when backed by good character, will always lead to promotion.

Returning to Sheffield, I paid a visit to the nurseries of Messrs. Fisher, Holmes, & Co., at Hansworth about four miles from the town, just far enough in the country to grow plants free of the Sheffield smoke. I think this is one of the best provincial nurseries in England. They have large ranges of houses and grow an extensive assortment of stove and green house plants; they also grow all the new and fancy florists' flowers, and are very particular to keep the names correct. They flower all new plants before offering them for sale to prove their correctness of color and name. I purchased from them a very fine collection of Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, new scarlet or zonal geraniums, Dahlias, and other plants which I hope to flower the ensuing season. The out-door department embraces every variety of nursery *stuff* grown in England; their prices are very moderate and they are well acquainted with packing plants for the American market.

Before leaving England I had an opportunity of visiting the Botanic Garden of Liverpool, which is very attractive. The present head gardener has displayed great taste in laying out the flower beds, and arranging color to give effect. The show of flowers in the different departments was really beautiful. There is also an excellent range of houses, all filled with fine specimens of new and rare plants. Amongst the orchideous plants I noticed a very fine specimen of the *Stanhopea Aurea*, in full flower; several varieties of *oncidium*, full of bloom, *Mantisia Saltatoria*, called opera girls, from the curious resemblance the

flowers bear to ballad dancers. Another remarkable plant, the American Fly Trap, appendages at the points of the broad stalks of the leaves, resembling a common trap, which effects the purpose of catching flies or other insects that may alight on it. The collections of Camellias, Azalias, hot green house plants, are very extensive well attended to. The botanic department (proper) of the garden contains a very large collection of plants, the different natural orders are contained in separate beds for on the grass with their names respectfully placed at the end of each bed. The gardens are open to the public free of charge. A large ornamented park outside of the garden affords a pleasant place of recreation to the public.

Birkenhead Park opposite Liverpool signed by Sir Joseph Paxton, and formed under his inspection by Mr. Kemp, is a delightful retreat from the smoke and bustle of city. The grounds are capacious, and manner in which they are arranged in relation to water, drives, &c., renders them peculiarly intricate, affording an endless variety of fresh scenery every few yards presenting fresh scenery to the delighted eye to contemplate and admire.

Mr. Kemp is the author of the best manual work on landscape gardening, and is extensively employed as a professional. He is the agriculturist of Birkenhead Park, and his management certainly reflects on him to great credit. The parks and public promenades so common in most of the principal cities of Britain are among the principal attractions of that delightful land.

JAMES FLEMING

(To be continued.)

Veterinary Department.

ON HORSE SHOEING.

On Thursday, 22nd ult., MR. ANDREW S. Veterinary Surgeon to the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada, delivered the inaugural lecture to the course on Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine now in course of delivery to a special class at the Agricultural Hall, in this city. The attendance was numerous and respectable. Col. F. Thomson, President of the Board, introduced Mr. Smith, and made a few observations explanatory of the nature and objects of the lecture. Mr. Smith commenced by giving a familiar position of the anatomy and physiology