

wisely suggested the use of another important lever to effect our purposes when proposing recently to our Directors that Secretary Beadle's work on Horticulture should be sown broadcast among our members by the Association during the coming year. It would crown the work already begun in the distribution of plants, give an impetus to fruit culture, and, on account of its Canadian origin and adaptation to our wants, supply at present a hiatus in fruit and vegetable growing which is patent to all lovers of our associated interests. The different local meetings throughout the year have been well attended, and have not lacked in interest—indeed the interest in fruit growing has been deeper and more felt than ever before. At Goderich, the display of fruit was something wonderful, and that district of country, at no distant day, is destined to take an important place among fruit growers. The plums, grapes, and apples grown in that locality startled members unacquainted with its capabilities. The benefits accruing to the Association from various local meetings throughout the Province ought not to be lost sight of. I could personally testify, were it needful,—and the members present could add their testimony to mine,—of the interest thereby created in many minds, and of plans formed for the cultivation of fruit: interest and plans which would never have had existence but for the presence of the Association. Among all the interests, however, which the members of our Association are banded together to further, there is none at present so important, and in the future will be so profitable to the fruit culturist, as grape growing. It needs not much discrimination to perceive that this culture is to prove of immense benefit to large tracts of our country. The soil, aspect, and climate of many portions of our large Province around our lakes are singularly adapted for grape-growing. When the late Mr. Underhill, of Albany, was recently among us, he pronounced the western shore of Lake Ontario as one of the best for this culture. He expressed his astonishment at its capabilities, and wondered that so little had been done in the way of developing our resources. What is true with regard to the western shore of Ontario is equally true, after trial, of the north-western, and more than true of the northern shore of Lake Erie and the north-eastern of Lake Huron. The most sceptical on this latter point must have had their scepticism removed at the late meeting of the Association at Goderich. The adaptability of soil and climate being taken for granted, nay, demonstrated by experiment, the half of the vine-grower's battle is more than fought, and there is only need of the helping hand of our Association, to develop the capabilities of soil, and the amenities of our climate, to make our available districts famous, like a land of old, for its vineyards. If the practical experience of your President is of any use in fastening the initial step of the ladder, it is heartily at your disposal. His experience is only to be taken for what it is worth, and those who know better and more, must just step forward to the front and give us their experience and light. I have fruited one and twenty varieties of grapes, and know more or less of ten varieties more. I am to speak therefore, only of what I know. The Isabella and Catawba were the first I fruited, and I was enamoured at my success with the former. During the fourteen years' cultivation of the Catawba, I succeeded in twice securing ripe fruit, and only twice. I question if we have yet a better wine grape than the Isabella. For hardiness and fruitfulness it can scarcely be excelled. With the exception of the Clinton and Concord it has as yet no equal as a wine-maker. The Catawba we have been compelled to discard. The Hartford Prolific, and Delaware, Concord, and Creveling, were our next addition. The Hartford Prolific has a place in all collections simply on account of its earliness. We esteem it but a poor grape. The Delaware is hard to beat. It is a favourite both for wine-making and dessert. We might with truth say that it is a universal favourite. Vineyardists and amateurs alike find it a profitable variety for cultivation. A grower near Hamilton last year sold his Delaware on the ground for six cents per lb. The wine from the Delaware has always seemed to me more agreeable than that from any other hardy grape which I have tasted. The Clinton and Concord are ranked together. There are no better grapes yet grown for profit. The Clinton is profuse in its bearing, and the Concord does not lack the same character. The Clinton with me does best on the arbour. I have tried in both ways. Indeed, it scarcely pays to cultivate it on the trellis alone. Immense success has attended its culture at Cooksville, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and on Lake Erie shore. It is thoroughly hardy, and while I have seen in my garden, during certain trying winters, the Delaware and Iona a little the worse of the severity, I have not yet seen the Clinton the least scorched. The Concord it what may justly be called a standard hardy grape. In point of bearing qualities, we venture to affirm that it has no equal. It is emphatically a heavy cropper, with fair, beautiful, large fruit, better for

wine making than has perhaps, at present, rank among the varieties if there be a more than only ordinary care, is one of the best stands among the grape, and we found on the bunch. The Horticultural Show never seen such but while it is in general and fair size of the varieties come next is, to our taste, a little sprightly. The bunch of Rogers' hybrids, finely flavoured grape of all his hybrids is a white grape, preferred for Mr. Arnold's region in the same field where, and the taste, with culture of the grape, by his hybridization, speak emphatically of some beautiful hybrid Provincial Exhibition. Ives' seedling, Roger the highest terms. Rogers' varieties will range from medium to of our wives and daughters no surprise at the position—rampant growers, find the Creveling, a sparse this drawback may make we fear, have been too From their mode of growth air. Their bunches No. 3, to our taste, is It is conspicuous for too, is a free grower, similar in character and 42. No. 19 is in Indeed, No. 4 cannot the berry itself is of in our neighbourhood. Nos. 53, 42 and 41, as it must give place to N which we are acquainted, like those former on a rich bottom, all ground. We can safely vineyard. Mr. John by branch stakes. He This low mode of culti