

everybody, and well adapted for window culture. Fern cases were well represented—and it was in this class that the mechanics of Edinburgh distinguished themselves, both in the workmanship and the taste displayed in the filling and arrangement of the plants. This is a thing that receives too little attention from window gardeners in Nova Scotia, as such cases can be got up very cheaply, and when filled with ferns, &c., from the woods, will well repay the trouble bestowed upon them. The prizes offered for cut blooms brought out some good specimens of pansies, phloxes, carnations, sweet William, &c.

In the afternoon Sir Gibson Maitland, Bart., addressed the audience on the advantages of such exhibitions, and distributed the prizes to the successful competitors. This is a feature that I would like to see carried out at all your agricultural and horticultural shows, as it looks very like a matter of dollars and cents when you are informed that your prizes will be paid by the secretary at a certain hour—whereas a formal presentation would tend to elevate and encourage the exhibitors at such shows. And I do not see what difficulty can be in the way of the forming of such shows in most of the towns and villages of Nova Scotia. The main expenses connected with such shows is the prizes, and that need not be very heavy; those offered by the Edinburgh society ranged from eight shillings to sixpence, and I did not hear one competitor grumble on account of the smallness of the prizes. The advantages derived from such shows are many. Show me the man who admires and takes an interest in his flowers, and I will show you the “happy home.” Besides it is well known that in large and crowded localities in towns and villages no plant will grow excepting you give it a certain amount of light and air, thus by encouraging the growth of plants in such places, you do far more than any Act of Parliament or Board of Health can ever accomplish. And I hope the day is not far distant when such shows will become a fixed fact throughout the province; and when such becomes the case you may rest assured of all the assistance that is in the power of your humble servant.

HALIGONIAN.

CULTIVATION OF STRAWBERRIES.

Yarmouth, August 17, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—I inferred, from a conversation with you in May, that you were interested in the cultivation of strawberries,—for the last five years it has been a speciality in horticulture with me, and I am pleased to compare notes, and to report on varieties. The last winter was an exceptional one, no one here remembers one of such severity, or one followed

by so many losses of fruit trees, and destruction to vegetation of all kinds, even the hardiest grasses suffered equally with the half hardy garden plants. Everywhere in the forests to-day, may be seen, standing dead, evergreens of ten, twenty, thirty or forty years growth, killed by the extraordinary severity of the winter of 1867-8. The failure of strawberry plants, after such a winter, should not, therefore, condemn them without further trial; it is satisfactory, however, to find that the most popular varieties survive unscathed. Wilson's Albany bore a full crop, not a plant apparently injured. In my father's garden, adjoining mine, a piece of ground measuring 40 x 80 feet bore not less than 20 bushels; two small lots were shipped to Boston by steamer, experimentally, and brought, the first lot 40 cents, the next 50 cents, per quart box, the berries, lots of 18 boxes each, gathered and packed without selection as to size. In this plot the plants are set singly, in rows 2½ feet apart, 2 feet apart in the row; having so much space, the plants grow to a large size and bear immense crops of the very finest and largest berries,—layers of berries on each plant measuring from four to five inches in circumference. The ground is kept clear, picked over after the fruiting season is over, the old leaves and bushes cut off, and a dressing of compost applied; covered in winter with fir brush.

Triomphe de Gand withstood the winter well, but bore a smaller crop than average, finer kinds probably injured. “Thox's 700” bore a small crop of fine fruit, a few plants winter killed. “Agriculturist” too tender for our climate, a large proportion of the plants die outright, and the survivors bear only a partial crop. “Russell's Prolific” has poor roots, grows here feebly, and seldom set its fruit well, the berries being rarely perfect—hardy. “Boston Pine” I have tried for several years, it is perfectly hardy, a good grower, but not productive; the fruit, too, is comparatively insipid. “Hovey's Seedling” shows a berry here and there on a plant, a poor bearer and a feeble grower. “Brooklyn Scarlet” is a good plant, quite hard, and fruit of best quality, but not enough of it to one accustomed to “Wilson's Albany.” “Metcalf's Early” is evidently a wild variety, fruit small and of poor quality, plant a strong grower and hardy. “Durand's Seedling” may do better another year; after the great encomium bestowed upon it, I felt much disappointed at the small show of fruit on my plants this season,—a large proportion of the plants were winter killed—it has too little foliage for self-protection—the quality of the fruit is of the best—size only medium. “Ripawan” or “Rippowan” is perfectly hardy, a fine grower, and bears well—the berries of the largest size—the flavor is peculiar,

not the best. “Golden Seeded,” a fine bearer, good grower and hardy. “Scott's Seedling” feeble in growth and poor bearer, quality of fruit good, medium size. “British Queen” I found tender, not a single plant survived the winter.—“Kean's Seedling” hardy, bore fruit small and of poor quality.

At the close of the season I reduced my varieties to eight,—Wilson's Albany, “Thox's 700,” “T. de Gand,” “Ripawan,” “Golden Seeded,” “Brooklyn Scarlet,” “Agriculturist,” and “Durand's Seedling,” esteeming them in order as I have named them; and “Wilson's Albany” so far ahead of any of the others that I should abandon strawberries were this variety lost. It is a very good plan for testing the comparative merits of varieties to make a scale of the several qualities that are desirable in a strawberry, viz. :—

	Size	Quality	Vigor of growth	Productiveness	Hardiness
Wilson's Albany.....	8	4	8	8	8 = 36
Thox's 700.....	7	8	5	6	3 = 29
T. de Gand.....	5	5	6	5	4 = 25
Ripawan.....	6	1	7	7	7 = 28
Golden Seeded.....	4	2	4	4	5 = 19
Brooklyn Scarlet.....	2	6	3	2	6 = 19
Agriculturist.....	3	3	2	3	1 = 12
Durand's Seedling.....	1	7	1	1	2 = 12

Of course above is not strictly accurate, but it is very nearly so.

Very truly yours,
CHARLES E. BROWN.

Miscellaneous.

AMERICAN CATTLE DISEASE.

IMPORTANT PAPER FROM THE COMMISSIONERS.

Upon the request of the Governor, the undersigned Commissioners convened at Albany on the 17th instant, and after careful deliberation, make the following announcement to the public:

In view of the fact that the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of chapter 740 of the Laws of 1866, have power and are directed to establish all such quarantine or other regulations as they may deem necessary to prevent the spread of the disease (rinderpest or other contagious disease) in its transit in railroad cars, by vessels, or by driving along the public highways; and also to appoint Assistant Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to carry out “such Quarantine and other Regulations;” and who, in order to effect this, are clothed with all the power conferred by this act on the said Commissioners, or their agents or appointees, in order to obtain a perfect history of this disease for future use; and to subserve most fully the purpose of this Commission, they have deemed it advisable to select the most practically scientific men in the State to act as such local Assistant Commissioners, or Health Officers, to carry out the intention of the law and to preserve proper medical records.