

Vegetable & Flower Garden.

THE SCOTCH HEATHER A TRUE NATIVE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

We have something to communicate to Scotchmen and especially to Nova Scotians. The earliest notice of the Scotch Heath as an inhabitant of America is that of Sir William Hooker in Index to the "Flora Boreali-Americana," where it is stated: "This should have been inserted at p. 39 as an inhabitant of Newfoundland, on the authority of De la Pylaie." It was supposed, however, that Pylaie had made a mistake, and it was a generally received axiom among botanists that heaths were limited to the Old World. In the year 1861 Prof. Gray of Harvard, announced the unexpected discovery by Mr. Jackson Dawson of heath in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. It was supposed by some that the heath had been planted there, and there is an elaborate paper by Mr. Sprague in the Boston N. H. Society's Proceedings, in which it is strongly argued that no native heath had ever been found in Newfoundland or on the American continent. In November 1863, at the sale of the Linnean society's collections, in London, Mr. Watson bought a parcel of plants in which were found two flowerless branches of *Calluna vulgaris* identical with the heath of the British Moors, and labelled "Head of St. Mary's Bay—Trepassey Bay, also, very abundant. S. E. of Newfoundland, considerable tracts of it." Evidence thus seemed to accumulate, but was still imperfect. In the city of Halifax there is a common, but mistaken belief that there is plenty of heather at Point Pleasant and the North-West Arm, but all the specimens that have been collected have proved on examination by botanists to belong to other plants and not to the heath family. However, in September 1864 Dr. Lawson obtained specimens of the genuine heather in swampy ground on Ulston Farm, St. Ann's, Cape Breton, where it has been known by the proprietor Mr. Robertson, for about ten years. The plant is quite wild, and native. Soon afterwards it was announced that Mr. Richardson, who was making a geological survey of Newfoundland, had found heather there. And lastly, during the present summer, a young lady brought to Dr. Lawson's botanical class, a specimen of *Calluna vulgaris*, (agreeing in every respect with the Scotch and Cape Breton plant,) which had been collected on the Dartmouth hills in 1850. There is now, therefore, ample evidence that Scotch heather grows, as an indigenous plant, in Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland; but is extremely local in its distribution, and in fact one of our rarest plants. Wherever a patch of heather grows, the proprietor should fence it in, and preserve it carefully, otherwise we are apt to lose the plant, and with it one of the claims of our Province to its cherished name of Nova Scotia. English and American botanists will hear with much interest of the Dartmouth habitat, as it serves in some measure to connect the Massachusetts one with those of Cape Breton and Newfoundland, which latter, on the other hand connects (distantly) through Greenland, Iceland and the Azores with the great heath centre of Northern Europe. We have a patch of the heather from Cape Breton, and find that it grows well in the flower border.

ADUMIA CIRRHOSA.—Visiting the exquisite garden of His Honor Chief Justice Young the other day, we observed the beautiful creeper, *Adumia cirrhosa*. This is one of the finest plants we know for a city or a suburban garden, its slender wiry stems being clothed with finely divided "filigree" leaves of a glaucous tinge, and graceful rose-coloured flowers. It is a native American plant; we have seen it in the Canadian woods, where it in some places covers hundreds of acres, climbing through the dense thickets of the primeval woods. The flowers resemble those of the Chinese *Dielytra*, to which the plant is botanically allied. Its cultivation is very simple, and we hope to see it introduced to every garden in the city, where there is a rock-work to be adorned or a fence to be screened.

Mr. HUTTON, the Superintendent of the Horticultural Gardens, has sailed for Britain, where he intends to visit the principal public and private gardens. A judicious and well informed man like Mr. Hutton, will derive much advantage from such a trip. The new plants and new styles of gardening adopted in England during the last few years will come freshly before him, and he may be expected to return to his duties here with renewed ardor, and much useful information. In short, as a result of this visit, the Horticultural Gardens will take a fresh start, will keep abreast of the rapidly advancing Art of Horticulture, and may be expected to meet, even more fully than hitherto, the wants of the garden-loving citizens of Halifax.

PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK.—It is gratifying to know that the scheme of forming a public park at the North-West Arm, commensurate with the growing importance of the city, is likely to be successfully carried out. W. Cunard, Esq., is taking an active interest in the movement.

ONION SAUCE.—Take six moderate sized onions and boil them till quite soft, changing the water once or twice while they are boiling. Mash them with a spoon, add half a pint of milk, an ounce of butter, a teacup full of bread crumbs, a little salt, a grate or two of nutmeg.—boil it two minutes. A table-spoonful of flour may be used instead of the bread crumbs, if preferred.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several scientific articles, literary notices, and a paper on the Diseases of Farm Plants are necessarily deferred to make room for matter of present interest.

We return our best thanks to those correspondents who, during the past two months, have so kindly sent us valuable information as to the state and prospects of the crops in different parts of the Province. We shall feel much obliged by a continuation of such communications.

H. D.—The proceedings and minutes of business meetings of the Agricultural Board, so far as they are expected to be of interest to the members of Agriculture

or Societies or the public, are published in this journal.

Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay, Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

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