

BOTANICAL POSITION.

A glance at the botanical position of some of our leading fruits—Canadian fruits, at least—may be of interest. We see at once that to the Rose family we are indebted for nearly all our tree fruits, as the apple, the pear, plum, cherry, the peach and its smooth-skinned sister, the apricot, in addition to the king of small fruits, the strawberry, and the members of the genus *Rubus*,—the brambles and raspberries.

Pyrus malus, L. with *P. prunifolia*, L. both European, are the parents of the cultivated forms of the apples of to-day. By comparing a ruddy specimen of the Emperor Alexander with a small specimen of the Siberian crab, we may obtain an idea of the improvement which has taken place in apples since the inhabitants of the Lake Dwellings of Switzerland cultivated pomeaceous fruits. The native crab of America, *Pyrus coronaria*, L. is beautiful in blossom, hardy in tree, but thus far incorrigibly astringent in fruit. However, over 80 per cent of our apples are of American origin that is to say the seed which produced them was planted in American soil. Nature has not dealt generously with us in matter of peaches, cherries and pears, all indigenous to Europe, not found wild in America; but man has by seedling production developed varieties well adapted to the vicissitudes of our varying climate.

NATIVE FRUITS.

Remarkable progress has been made during the last half century in the development of native fruits. By looking at the evolution of the American grape, a prominent example is afforded. It is but a little over 60 years since Catawba, the first selection from the wild *Vitis Labrusca* L. of the south was made. But it is since the advent of the Concord, "the grape for the million," about 40 years ago, that varieties have multiplied with such astonishing rapidity, till at the present time they are numbered by the hundreds. Another example may be cited in the native plums