

adelphia. I say good fortune, for it enabled me to draw a proximate comparison between the fruit productions of this Province and the neighbouring States. To enable your readers to form some idea of the estimate our neighbours place on these gatherings, I will take a paragraph or two from the Philadelphia "Press," which thus announced the event about to come off:—

"The present week of the Pomological Session is a busy one to the mighty fruit and floral interests of the country, commencing on the 15th of September, 1869, and continuing until the close of the week. A grand national fruit and floral festival is being held. It is composed of the regular meeting of the Pomological Society of the United States, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the citizens of the Quaker City may consider themselves unusually favoured in having both these Societies meeting in harmony at one and the same time, and at one and the same place."

It further states that the Pomological Society is composed of Fruit Growers from all over the country, who have sent the best of their products to Horticultural Hall to compete for the various prizes offered for the best and finest fruits. One very interesting feature of the Exhibition was a bountiful display of fruits from California and Kansas, and to these may be added those from Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa, Ohio, New York, Tennessee, Illinois and other States. The display in quantity was certainly imposing. There were, in this immense Hall, 1,254 plates of apples, 1,594 of pears, 38 of peaches, 51 of plums, 220 of native grapes, 41 of exotic grapes, besides many others of crabs, quinces, cranberries, &c., &c. On entering the hall where these were arranged, the visitor was impressed with the practical arrangement of the tables, which admitted the spectators to pass directly into the centre of this great Hall, or to go either to the right or left, through aisles formed by the tables, and thus pass quite round until they arrived directly in front of the stage, and in thus passing round they would see on the one hand, the most beautiful display of foliage plants, exotic and native, intermingled with a profusion of flowers, all arranged along the walls, and on the other hand the fruits were so disposed as to give the best effect to the general scene. Beautiful as it appeared in passing around, the crowning glory remained to be witnessed, when

in front of the stage. Here, I am afraid I shall fail in conveying an intelligible description of this most lovely scene, I fancy it must be long in passing away from the memory of those who saw it. The stage was elevated about 2½ feet above the main floor, and appeared about 40 feet square. The laying out of this stage was entrusted to a Mr. Southwood, a gentleman who evidently excels in scenic art, and I am informed, performs this duty simply for the enjoyment the occupation affords him. He so arranged this stage as to make it appear a tropical garden. Against the wall, occupying the whole rear of the stage from ceiling to floor, was placed what appeared an immense oil painting, representing a beautiful cascade, rushing through a gorge of rocks and foaming in its fall until it quite disappeared among the palms and ferns below, and to add to this fairy scene, a natural stream of water was introduced to meet the one in the painting, and made to turn a rude water wheel, that none but the most attentive eye could detect the union, so correctly blended were nature and art. Then again on either side of this waterfall were arranged a great variety of tropical plants, to intermingle with those represented in the painting. Among these I noticed Palms, Ferns, Banana trees, Drocenias, Calladimus, Myranthias, Gum Elastic, and Acacia trees, beautiful Chinese Cissus and Alamanda, in blossom, and also a Guava plant. So correct was the arrangement and adjustment of these living plants with those in the painting, that one was compelled often to admit deception in pointing out their different features. From the scenery in the background to the front of the stage the boards were strewn with laurels and groups of rock-work covered with mosses, interspersed with broad-leaved flowery plants, and placed among these were to be seen Pomona and Flora, admiring each other's chiseled beauties, he in the act of throwing fruits to her, and she seated on a white goat, among an exquisite arrangement of rare flowery plants. In front of the stage on the main floor stood the rare century plant, just putting forth its blossoms. This plant was about 24 feet high, and presented an extraordinary sight—it is supposed to bloom once in one hundred years, after which it fades and dies; a few yards to the left of the stage was erected a beautiful floral design. It stood 16