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THE EMPIRE STATE GRAPE.

We are indebted to the Messrs. Pratt Bros. of Rochester, N. Y. for the handsome chromo of this new grape, which embellishes the present number of our magazine. They succeeded to the business of the late George A. Stone, and completed the engagement which he had made with Mr. James H. Ricketts, the originator, by paying him four thousand dollars in cash for the proprietorship of this new grape. This is the strongest possible evidence that they must have had very great confidence in its merits.

The originator states that it was raised from seed of the Hartford Prolific fertilized by the Clinton, so that it is a cross between two of the families of our native grapes. The vine first bore fruit in 1879, maturing a crop of thirty-eight bunches. As will be seen from the chromo, the bunch is large and handsomely shouldered, and the berries of full medium size, beautifully shaded with light yellow. He also states that the flesh is tender, juicy and sweet; yet sprightly, with a slight trace of native aroma. Never yet having had an opportunity of tasting this grape, we are obliged to give the opinions of others, and merely add that the quality given by Mr. Ricketts is fully borne out by

the statements of other gentlemen who have eaten the fruit.

One of the valuable characteristics of this grape is its keeping qualities. Although it ripens before the Concord, the Messrs. Pratt tell us that the fruit hung up in their office on the second of September, was in good condition on the first of December, seeming to improve in quality by being kept instead of deteriorating. In this respect it appears to have inherited one of the valuable peculiarities of its sire, which is one of our best grapes for winter use, growing richer and finer in quality by the lapse of time.

We are also assured that the vine is very vigorous, perfectly healthy, of good constitution, enduring the winter's cold of 30° below zero, having stood the test of the very severe winter just past, entirely unprotected, without the slightest injury, where the Catawba and other kinds have suffered severely; that it has thick leaves, which thus far have not been affected with mildew, and ripens up a heavy crop of fruit perfectly. Indeed, as much might be expected of it from its parentage. On the maternal side it belongs to the Labrusca family, which embraces most