

The Canadian Horticulturist.

VOL. III.]

JANUARY, 1880.

[No. 1.]

THE NIAGARA GRAPE.

It is one of the interesting duties of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST to keep its readers informed as fully as possible concerning the new fruits that are being brought to notice. To announce to the horticultural world the advent of a novelty, however valuable, is not the whole duty of those who are supposed to stand on something of vantage ground with regard to the character of the new comer, but the rather, impartially to set forth, so far as lies in their power, its true character. And this is verily not always an easy task. Those who have an interest in bringing out the new beauty have a tongue only for its excellencies and none for its defects. Besides, there is a charm about any new thing, and especially a new fruit of any merit, that throws a golden light all around it and upon it, so that we see it and think of it not in the soberness of the clear noonday, but in the mystic haziness of a lovely twilight.

Just now there is a rush of white grapes to the front, each claiming the attention of the planter, and each championed by those who are interested in its dissemination. This creates a stir among the growers of grape vines, and fills the air with the notes of preparation for a vigorous campaign, in which everything will be tried that ingenuity can devise to place the new vines profitably. It is just at such a time as this that the honest discharge of duty to our readers is especially valuable to them, and yet difficult of performance, for the most honest intentions may be thwarted by error in judgment or by lack of knowledge of all the facts upon which an intelligent judgment can be based. Yet such have been our opportunities during the past season of seeing and testing the leading competitors for popular favor, that we shall venture to give our readers the opinion we have formed of the one whose name stands at the head of this paper, believing that we shall not lead them far astray by these remarks.

The history of a new fruit is always interesting, and often helpful in forming an estimate of its probable character and worth. The