

vines—a portion of which were the first of my efforts at Grape Culture that could be considered successful. In the Spring of 1874, I removed the Champion, Delaware, Concord, Hartford and Adirondac vines to Riverside—a place purchased by me on the Ottawa River, between the Convent of the Sacred Heart and the village of Sault-au-Récollet. Some other quite popular varieties I did not consider worth the labor of removal. There were at Riverside, when the place came into my possession, some ten or a dozen vines, from which the former owner had, by dint of careful nursing—and covering with blankets on any appearance of frost—succeeded in getting a few bunches of grapes every Fall. There were two Sweetwaters, which I preserved, for the sake of having a variety. The others I dug up. I have now some 400 vines in bearing, comprising some ten varieties; nearly all, however, being the Champion. I have visited grape-fields in all parts of the country West and South of us, and I can safely assert that, for the last three years, I have not seen a finer or more prolific crop than my own. In each of the years named I have had Champion Grapes on my table at the Montreal House in advance of those grown in Rochester and shipped to this market. Last season I picked the first fruit on the 26th of August, and on the 12th September—the date of the Horticultural Exhibition—the whole crop was so ripe that the stems were quite shrivelled. My remaining varieties were no riper than those of other exhibitors.

I subjoin a few hints upon the method of cultivation which may be found useful to new workers in this field—of whom I trust the number will increase year by year.

I. THE PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.—This is a matter of great importance. Once done, however, it will last for the remainder of one's natural life—while the crop comes as regularly at every harvest as do those requiring annual preparation. A slight top-dressing when the growth ceases to be vigorous, and keeping the weeds subdued, are all that is required.

The cost of plants, to begin with, if they are bought, is a