

winter cold, and such plants as come from a humid climate like Britain, to our dry, bright, atmosphere. On the other hand to raise our native fruits to as high a standard as those imported, and fit them for the enjoyment of our race.

To the Canadian hybridist in fruits, in cereals, and in the beautiful flowers, our grand Dominion already owes much, though there are still many leaves of nature's book to be turned by future aspirants to fame.

## SECOND PRIZE ESSAY ON THE RESULTS ACCRUING FROM THE TREES AND PLANTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

BY REV. R. BURNET, LONDON.

MOTTO—"Alere Flammam."

THE Fruit Growers' Association have been fertile in devising, and in putting into effect, various schemes for the advancement of Horticulture throughout the province. A large amount of good has accompanied these methods, not only to the members of the Society, but to fruit-growers at large all over the country. Indeed it may be well said that these benefits have not been confined to our own province, but have extended to Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Among the most efficient of these means for the development of Horticultural interests, employed by the Fruit Growers' Association, may be mentioned the public discussions on Fruit interests which have characterized the proceedings of the Society during its past existence. Few can calculate the good that has arisen from these means, to the members attending the meeting, and still greater good has accompanied the publication of the discussions both in the Press of the Province and in the annual report issued by the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture. We are satisfied that very great stress will be put upon these publications in all future discussions on the Horticulture of Ontario. Prizes for seedling fruits have been the means of calling into notice a fair share of the best seedling fruits grown in the Province. Two or three apples of surprising excellence have been brought to the knowledge of the Society, and means are in contemplation to fully reward the producers and owners of such fruits. There has not been any great result in pear-growing through the introduction of new pears. Perhaps the only new pear worthy of mention is the one from Oshawa, which cannot be said to be of superior excellence; indeed it scarcely comes up to the excellence of its parent, the Flemish Beauty. A seedling peach of rare excellence was exhibited by Mrs. Colbeck, of Hamilton, which gave great promise, but this variety from some cause or other has not been prominently brought forward of late.

It is among vines that the greatest success has marked the efforts of the Association. Here we have a large field of operation, and several distinguished operators, all claiming the ear of the public. Facile princeps among these is the veteran hybridist, P. C. Dempsey, County of Prince Edward. The "Burnet" grape will long remain a trophy of his ingenuity, perseverance, and patience. Nor are the efforts of Mr. C. Arnold, W. H. Mills, and Mr. Wm. Saunders, to be overlooked in their hybridizations of strawberries, vines, and raspberries respectively. Mr. Arnold's efforts embrace cereals as well as fruits.

Of all these efforts for the dissemination of a taste for horticulture, we question if any can compare in beneficial effects to the distribution of suitable plants and trees throughout the length and breadth of Ontario. It was a happy thought that originated this method for the advancement of fruit culture. It has wrought wonders among our fruit growers. The increased vitality among our members was not the least benefit. The roll of membership suddenly rose from hundreds to thousands, and men who had been chary or indifferent in having anything to do with the Association, felt it at once to be their duty to join its ranks. Varying success may have attended the advance of the Society since, but it never has altogether lost the impetus for good which it then received. It brought our Association into more prominent notice than it had heretofore received. The remotest counties and districts furnished names to the membership, and increased interest and benefit were the result. But this

was not all. It was perhaps the cry that has ever been described, that pudding is the best as the gnats are the new varieties. Eumelan has who knew the Society.

Mr. S. in its cultivation last year we lie, by our success proved a well known knowledge of being cultivated dissemination commenced, there was even satisfied in the market variety was by far the earlier and more Rogers' sort of our plants too much to the Fruit Growers' varieties of the tudes of people fruit, to see or in the extent superintend true that the their own fold which he is amount of extraordinary usual common fruit growing they invest. who desires to make enquiry.

What the Association Society deserves munity into the easily grown worth having introducing, and are not without merly, is not horticultural ociation. Wh decayed apple everywhere d cultivating th