



### The St. Catharines Nurseries.

We have long purposed visiting the above nurseries, but have only very recently been able to carry out our purpose. The closing days of November are not just the time of year one would select in order to see anything rural to advantage, but the present season has been so open and pleasant that out-door garden work can scarcely be said to be over yet, and accordingly we found seeding, transplanting, pruning, manuring, and covering, almost in full operation in the grounds above mentioned at the date of our inspection of them. The dryness of the land underfoot, and the pleasantness of the sky overhead, would have suggested a much earlier period of autumn, but for the chilliness of the air and the leaflessness of the trees. A wintry drought reigned over the country at the time in question.

The St. Catharines nurseries are situated close by the town whose name they bear, and possess consequently many advantages of location, soil, and exposure, being in the midst of the fruit garden of Canada. These nurseries were established many years ago by the late Dr. C. Beadle, and are now carried on by his son, Mr. D. W. Beadle. They consist of a home nursery of thirty acres, and a tract of one hundred acres a mile distant. A general stock of nursery and greenhouse products is kept on hand, but fruit trees and hardy grape vines are made specialties. Of fruit trees, both standard and dwarf are propagated, a decided preference being given to standards. Dwarfs are not high in favor with Mr. Beadle. He deems them rather horticultural playthings, than of practical utility for cropping and business purposes. He has also found them more precarious than standards. One winter he lost 70,000 dwarf pears, the frost killing the quince stocks outright, while the pear part survived. At present the stock of fruit trees at these nurseries is low, except in the staple items of apple trees, and we believe this is the case with our nurserymen generally, a large and increasing demand for fruit trees being one of the signs of the times, and a very gratifying one, among the farmers of Canada. Besides fruit trees, ornamental and shade trees are largely grown at these nurseries, also flowering shrubs, evergreens, roses, and bedding-out plants. The demand for these is also very perceptibly on the increase, indicating improvement and advance in the taste, culture, and refinement of our population.

Mr. Beadle has extensive and convenient glass structures for propagating purposes, one 60x30, another, a double roofed house, 90x40. The latter is of recent construction, and is only partially stocked as yet. The new building is covered with thick glass, without sliding sashes, other provision being made for ventilation, so as to leave the glass a fixture. These houses are warmed on the hot water tank principle, which seems preferable to any other, because of the evenness and humidity of the atmosphere thus created. A large frost-proof building has also just been erected for the purpose of storing away dahlia roots, cuttings, &c., during the winter. We saw a large and healthy-looking collection of hybrid perpetual roses, geraniums of all sorts, among them the variegated leaved "Mrs. Pollock," and "Sunset," the foliage of which is very beautiful, verbennas, dahlia roots, &c. Besides the stock on hand, an extensive assortment of novelties is on the way from the Old World, among them about a hundred new roses, also pinks, picotees, fifty new kinds of herbaceous

plants, and forty new irises. Mr. Beadle has very complete conveniences for propagating all descriptions of plants, and is going largely into the propagation of hardy grape vines the present winter. A great store of newly pruned wood is in the frost-proof house, awaiting leisure for cutting up and setting out. The propagating department is under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Buchanan, who was for many years gardener to the late Mr. W. P. McLaren, of Hamilton, and is a very skilful, intelligent, and experienced horticulturist. Mr. Beadle has given much attention for some years past to the testing and multiplication of out-door grapes, and while hot-house grapes are not neglected, special pains have been taken to obtain and propagate the best hardy varieties. We were glad to find that the "Delaware" has won golden opinions for itself at these nurseries. Mr. Beadle considers it the best out-door grape he has yet fruited. The specimens in his grounds, both of old vines and young plants, have a stronger and more vigorous look than in any nursery where we have seen this variety of grape. We are inclined to think that in the hurry of propagators to make money while the demand was brisk, the "Delaware" suffered somewhat in constitution, many plants being sent out of forced and spindling growth. If this be so, it is likely the reputation of this grape will improve as it recovers vitality and vigor. The "Adirondac" is also highly spoken of by Mr. Beadle. We do not know of any one else in Canada who has fruited this variety. At these nurseries it has proved very early, rather earlier than the Hartford Prolific, and of desirable flavor. "Iona" has also attained a high character here. A new grape that originated at Port Dalhousie, named the "Laura Beverley" is described by Mr. Beadle as perfectly hardy, a great bearer, ripening early, of good flavor, and hanging tenaciously to the bunch. Rogers' hybrids, especially Nos. 3, 4, 9, 15, 19, and 33, have done well here. Mr. Beadle is, however, most sanguine and enthusiastic in reference to the hybrids raised by Mr. Chas. Arnold, of Paris. He thinks them a most valuable acquisition, and decidedly in advance of many others that are vauntingly pressed upon public attention. Mr. Beadle will shortly issue a little hand-book of vine culture, wherein information as to varieties, brief hints as to planting, pruning, and general treatment, will be given for the guidance of all and sundry who wish to grow grapes. It will, no doubt, be of great service, and we shall be glad to notice, and possibly cull extracts from it, on its appearance.

The sale business of these nurseries is partly carried on by correspondence, but chiefly through wholesale dealers, who take orders on their own responsibility, and purchase the stock they retail. Orders are sent from all parts of the country, and but for the operation of the United States tariff laws, considerable business could be done across the lines, these nurseries being situated so near the frontier. At present international tariff arrangements operate to the disadvantage of the Canadian nurseryman. The American nurseryman can send his trees here without let or hindrance, and as a matter of fact, if there be an overstock of anything in the nursery line, or if there are odds and ends to work off, they find their way into Canada. American dealers do not like to spoil their own market by selling too low, but they have no scruple about spoiling ours. Thus Concord grapes were not long since being offered at \$7 greenbacks per hundred, to the detriment of Canadian nurserymen. We state this merely as an item of information, not as an argument for protection. Our true policy as a people is in the direction of light tariffs and free trade. This policy will, of course, affect individual interests, and particular commodities unfavorably, but it is, we doubt not, that which will be productive of the greatest good to the greatest number. It will, better than any other line of action on our part, prepare the way for a renewal of Reciprocity—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

The proprietor of these nurseries is a thoroughly intelligent and skilful horticulturist, not wedded to old theories, nor over anxious to espouse new ones. He does, what it would be well for all in his branch of business to do, namely, keeps abreast of the times as to useful information, discoveries, and improvements. We were glad to see a natural, healthy, thrifty habit of growth, characterizing all the trees, old and young, in these grounds; and from the care and skill bestowed upon every department, we have little doubt that a business, already plainly a large and remunerative one, will grow apace, and bring golden rewards to its owner, while it largely contributes to render our land replete with fruitfulness and beauty.

### Keeping Grapes Fresh.

We have tried many plans to preserve pears, apples, grapes, &c., and have in them all partially or wholly failed. A friend in the interior of this State received a present of grapes some time ago, (March,) which he speaks of in the following manner:—

"Three days since a friend brought me about a pound of Catawba and Isabella grapes. They were about as good as if just taken from the vine in the proper season—full and plump, but most of the berries had fallen off from the stems in the carriage of about ten miles over a rough road.

"Now, the way these grapes were preserved may not be new to you, though it certainly seemed a novel one to me; but the fact of their keeping until the end of March in fine condition is worthy of publicity.

"In the fall, when they are perfectly ripe, they are taken from the vines when they are free from anything like moisture, handled carefully and packed in small kegs—nail kegs were the kind used in this instance. Put a layer of green leaves, right off the vines, in the bottom, on this a layer of grapes, then leaves again, and grapes, alternately, until the keg is full, then finish off with leaves. Put in the head, and your cask is ready for what? Why, to be buried in the ground. Dig a trench so as to admit the cask deep enough that they will have about one foot or fifteen inches of soil over them when covered. The ground should be packed moderately tight, and a board laid along on the top before the ground is thrown in. They throw some litter on the surface of the ground over those which they wish to take up during the winter, to prevent the ground from freezing so hard as to keep them from getting at them. One important thing must be observed, that they be placed where there can be no standing water about the cask, or they would suffer.

"On farther inquiry, I learn that the farmers in that neighborhood have practised this mode for years, and don't seem to think it anything new."

We would express the opinion that if the grapes are buried, the keg or whatever they may be packed in should be water-tight. If moisture penetrates the grapes will not keep.—*Ger. Telegraph.*

### Protecting Trees from Rabbits.

From an experience of twenty years I will tell your readers how to prevent rabbits from injuring apple trees. My plan, which is the only thing that has proved successful, is:—In the fall of the year, just before winter sets in, we wrap the trees with rye straw in the following manner:—Take a bunch of rye straw, say as thick as three fingers, and commence at the root of the tree, and wrap from right to left, by giving it a twist every time you bring it around, until it is nearly all wound up in this manner. Then take a second bunch, and by a peculiar twist it is adjusted to the first bunch, and thus keep on until you have wrapped high enough to be out of the reach of these enemies to trees. It may be thought to be a tedious job, but patience and a little practice will soon prove different. In this manner I can wrap over one hundred trees per day with ease. I prefer this plan for several reasons—first, it is an effectual preventive against rabbits; second, it protects the trees against sudden changes of weather, so common and injurious in the western prairies; and third, we leave the straw on in the spring until the orchard is ploughed, and then it protects the trees from being injured by the ploughman.

P. S.—The straw should be made wet a little, to make it more pliable.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

There was exhibited at the recent American Pomological meeting a specimen of the Crawford Late Peach, which measured twelve and a half inches in circumference, grown in Missouri.