

Horticulture.

MONTREAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have been favored with the first Annual Report of the *Montreal Horticultural Society* for the past year, together with a copy of the Proceedings connected with its formation in 1847. The Society, considering its recent establishment, appears to be well supported, and promises to run a successful career of usefulness. Its first year's income appears to have been nearly £100; and during that period there had been four public exhibitions, which were of a highly creditable character, and numerous attended. At the Annual Meeting in September, not less than 1500 different articles were presented for competition. The show of apples and plums, in particular, is stated to have been splendid; comprising several new sorts of peculiar richness and flavor. "The result," says the Report, "of these exhibitions has been to shew the capabilities of Montreal Island for the cultivation of fruits, as well as other products; to create a generous emulation among the members, to promote and foster a taste for horticultural pursuits, and to awaken an interest on the part of the public in the operations of the Society." It is intimated that arrangements may probably be made with the University of McGill College, under which a portion of the grounds belonging to that Institution might be obtained for the purposes of the Society. By the bye, could not something of this sort be done here with our own University in Toronto? It is high time that the *Queen City of the West* manifested more interest in gardening pursuits, and that a *Horticultural Society* be established forthwith. We shall be happy to render such a project our humble aid. The following extract from the Report will be perused with interest by our readers; and in our next we hope to make room for some portions of the chaste and elegant address of the Society's President,—the Honorable Judge Day:

"The importance of Horticulture cannot be too highly estimated. Whether regarded as a means of affording employment to those possessed of leisure, or as a source of recreation to those oppressed with the cares of business, or the duties of a profession, it is equally attractive and interesting. To the man of science and taste, it opens a wide field for investigation and study; to the high and the low, to the rich and the poor, it presents a fountain of the purest and most innocent pleasure, of which all may partake with equal enjoyment. There can be no doubt that attention to Horticulture strengthens the attractions of home, and contributes not a little to those interesting associations of childhood which, in after life, afford the most pleasing recollections, and which, not effaced by time or distance, are often

awakened by the sight of a familiar landscape, flower, or tree. As a means of developing the better part of our nature, and of promoting those refined tastes and feelings, which lead men to seek pleasure in that which is pure and good, the pursuit of Horticulture stands unrivalled. Regarded in a practical point of view, its importance is still greater, since it promotes the comforts and provides the necessities of life: at the same time, adding to the delicacies and luxuries of the table. Such advantages surely present sufficient justification for any amount of effort in their attainment; and if, in any degree, these happy influences have been exerted by the formation of this Society, it will be an ample reward to those whose zealous endeavors have been devoted to its welfare.

Your Board are happy to observe, that a general interest in Horticultural pursuits, hitherto unknown, seems to be recently awakened. They regard the large importation of plants and fruit trees, the erection of numerous extensive vineries and green houses, the increased taste for Horticulture, and attention to gardening, as evidences of this improvement. They hail this as the dawn of a brighter day, when our beautiful Island may be in reality entitled to the appellation it often receives, of the *Garden of Canada*."

QUALITY OF APPLES,

AS DECIDED AT THE BUFFALO POMOLOGICAL CONVENTION.

From the Genesee Farmer.

The St. Lawrence Apple.—Several gentlemen from Canada, Western New York, and elsewhere, regarded this fruit as being nearly first-rate, and some even quite first-rate, in quality. The tree is a vigorous grower and a good bearer, and the fruit always large, fair and fine. Mr. Thomas of Macedon objected to it on account of its coarseness, and said he regarded it as not more than second or third-rate. After considerable discussion it was voted, though not unanimously, to be first-rate.

Pomme Royal or *Dyer*.—Mr. Elliot said this apple was cultivated in Ohio, in some collections, as *Cole's Spice* and *Golden Spice*. Mr. Thomas said it was cultivated in Western New York, in some collections, as *Hollow Crown*.—Unanimously passed as first-rate.

Early Joe.—All who knew this fruit concurred in its being one of the very best apples of its season, but that it should be eaten soon after being picked from the tree. [We have had this fruit in fine condition 6 weeks after being gathered.]

Early Strawberry.—First-rate for its season.

Sweet Bough.—First-rate for its season.

Sine qua non.—First-rate for its season.

Minister.—A famous New England Apple. Passed as second-rate.

Summer Rose.—Unanimously passed as first-rate.—Mr. Elliot of Ohio remarked that if he should cultivate but one early apple it would be this.

Summer Queen.—A sweet variety was presented under this name, but was decided to be the *Augustine*.—The true variety, being that described by Downing, passed as first-rate for cooking, and second for the table.

Augustine.—Third-rate.

Dutchess of Oldenburg.—First-rate for cooking, and second for the table.

Waggoner Apple.—A new variety from Chas. Lee, Penn Yan, passed by, being unknown to most members of the Convention. J. J. Thomas considered it as