

THE  
**Canadian Horticulturist.**

VOL. IX.]

OCTOBER, 1886.

[No. 10.]

THE ONTARIO STRAWBERRY.

This new variety was given last spring by the Fruit Growers' Association to those of its members who chose to receive it for trial. It is too soon as yet for them to report upon its behavior in their several localities, with the various treatment and in the variety of soils and circumstances under which it will be tested, but believing that it would be interesting to all growers of the strawberry to learn how it had succeeded in Mr. Little's hands during the past season, we now give the substance of his reply to our inquiries.

Of its origin nothing positive is known. Mr. Johnston, of Shortsville, N. Y., bought the stock, a few plants, some five years ago, named and disseminated it. As a cropper it has proved to be a larger bearer with Mr. Little "than a number of the new and greatly admired sorts in the specimen beds." This, it must be confessed, is somewhat vague. It would have been more definite had its productiveness been compared with some of our well known sorts, such as Wilson, Sharpless, or Crescent. The blossoms are perfect, by which is meant that the stamens and anthers are well developed so that there is an abundance of pollen pro-

duced to fertilize the seed vessels and so cause the fruit to set, without being obliged to plant some other variety yielding pollen sufficient to ensure fertilization.

The berries are larger than those of the Manchester, taking the season throughout, while some of the berries are larger than any of those borne by any other variety in Mr. Little's grounds, and Mr. Little has a very large number of varieties. In form they are "slightly elongated and ribbed, but never mis-shapen, somewhat resembling Cumberland Triumph." In color they are "not so bright as Manchester, but better than Cumberland Triumph," and in texture they are "firmer than Manchester."

The quality of the fruit is designated as "very good, sprightly, the very best for family use." Here again it is to be regretted that we have not some comparison with other varieties with the qualities of which we are familiar, yet the expression "*very best* for family use" would seem to indicate high quality.

The plant, Mr. Little says, is "one of the very best here, it is entirely free from burning in the sun, and from all