

THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1892.

The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario was held in the city of Brantford, beginning on Tuesday evening, December the 6th, 1892, with a public welcome in the Music Hall of the Institute for the Blind which was presided over by Principal Dymond, a gentleman who extended to the Association every possible courtesy.

THE WELCOME MEETING.

An organ solo, entitled, "*Marche Pontificale*" (Lemmens), was performed in opening.

Principal DYMOND said: It is certainly not by reason of any claim of a standing in the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, or of any connection with fruit culture that I have the honor to preside over your meeting to-night; but as the representative of this Institute, in welcoming you here, I express, I am sure, the hearty feeling of all my colleagues and those under my charge at seeing you with us.

If there be any who can appreciate the work of the fruit grower, I presume it is the fruit consumer. I speak of those who, although they may never yet have raised an apple tree to perfection, or become adepts in the description of a grape or pear, are not the less able to appreciate the labors of those who do enter upon those vocations. I had the honor some years ago of meeting your president, when acting on the Agricultural Commission, and I then tried to find out how much, or little, some of these gentlemen knew about fruit culture. I rejoice to know that the result of that undertaking, and of the intelligent efforts of some of those who have been laboring in the cause of fruit culture, has been the extension of the export of fruit to the mother country. Very little things sometimes produce an impression with regard to the character of a people, and, though packing a barrel of apples may seem a small thing, yet barrels of apples by the hundreds of thousands are sent to the mother land and the character of the people who send them is discernible from the character of the packing. But, as one who values above all the character of Canada in the mother land, I would desire perhaps more than most people that the feeling of affection between Great Britain and Canada should be nurtured, and I desire to see this friendship promoted by your Association.

Principal Dymond then called upon the vocal class, composed of about fifty pupils of the Institute, to render "*The Bridal Chorus*" (Cowen).

His Worship the Mayor (Dr. Secord) then addressed the meeting. He said: I am sure it gives me considerable pleasure, not only from my personal capacity, but also from my representative capacity as Mayor of this city, to be present and welcome the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to Brantford. I am only sorry that the good opinion which possibly the gentlemen from a distance might have entertained of our constantly pleasant climate, should have been marred by unfavorable weather, but I can say that Brantford, in other respects, compares favorably with any other part of Ontario.

The meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association here for the first time, for the discussion of subjects of importance to the progress of their industry, certainly must tend to the comfort, happiness and general good of the community. The trend of the present age is toward recognizing the dependence of man upon man. Now, sir, your society is certainly an example of what persistent effort will do. I understand that you are well on to a third of a century in age and that from a small beginning, thirty-three years ago, you have grown to considerable proportions at this time. I can only say to you that you must have the gift of patience in observations. You take a seed, which