

bec. This is eminently a wine grape. Some of the cultivated varieties are—Clinton, from which is derived most of Arnold's hybrids, which have the Clinton for one of their parents. All the grapes of this class grow readily from cuttings; it makes the best grafting stock for foreign varieties, the roots being free from the ravages of phylloxera. Millions of vines in France are placed on this stock with the most satisfactory results. The three white grapes of this class, from which will probably come the best light-coloured wines of America, are—Faith, very early; Pearl, early; Elvira, medium. Most of the hybrids and crosses of this class, so far, are late; but the reason of this is probably because less attention has been paid to working with the Riparia class than with the Labrusca. If it should become firmly established that the best wines of this continent are to be produced from *V. riparia* and its seedlings, the ingenuity of the hybridist will soon produce seedlings with as early ripening proclivities as the native Riparia, which ripens, or rather turns black in August, though it requires frost to break down its acidity.

Our native species have been so crossed and mixed amongst themselves, and with *V. vinifera*, that we have to-day some five hundred and fifty varieties of native grapes, which number is rapidly on the increase, though of course many of the least desirable are dropping out of notice, and will in a few years be entirely lost sight of, as better strains are being produced.

What this country really wants is early ripening sorts both for table and wine. The Jefferson, so highly spoken of in the August number of the *Horticulturist*, is, I fear, too late for this part of Canada, ripening after Concord.

During the past few weeks, in company with John Lowe, Esq., Secretary

of the Bureau of Agriculture, the writer has been visiting some of the larger vineyards in proximity to the City of Ottawa. The first visited were those of Mr. Alfred French and Mr. Wm. Graham, of New Edinburgh. The latter is celebrated for the production of the finest clusters of grapes probably on this continent of every variety grown there, and also for their early ripening. On one occasion fifteen varieties were shown at the Exhibition at Toronto, and resulted in carrying off thirteen first prizes and two second. The soil is a black slate or shale, not over rich, with a considerable slope to the south. The dark soil and the southern slope give admirable conditions for early ripening of fruit and wood. In point of fact the grapes are generally ten days ahead of any in this vicinity. The mode of training is to erect a trellis on cedar posts four to six inches in diameter, five feet above ground. To these are attached two scantling  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3$  inches, 12 feet long, the lower one a foot from the ground, the other on the top of the posts. To each panel is nailed four light upright scantling (round cedar poles slightly flattened at each end were nailed to scantling, two inches thick); these will be three feet apart; the vines are planted in the centre of the panels; the arms grown the previous year are fastened to the lower scantling; a cane is tied to each upright pole for bearing fruit, and another of the present year's growth is taken from the base of this, or from the arm, and is tied up for next year's fruiting, when the previous year's cane, which has already fruited, is cut away. So that the system followed is the arm-renewal plan. The object to be attained is to have new fruiting wood for each year.

When the Fruit Growers' Association met here in 1875 some of its officers visited this vineyard to examine