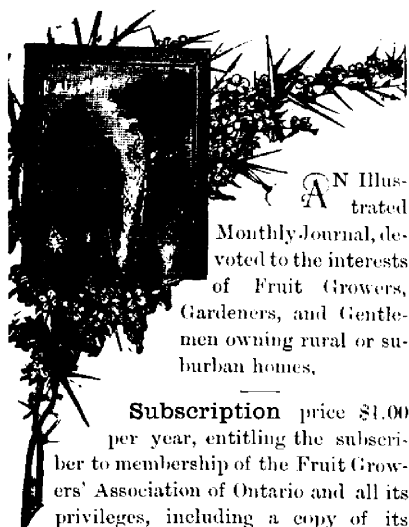


year. He leaves a vacancy which will not be filled. Neither he nor his brother left any children to perpetuate their memory. Many of the agricultural and horticultural papers contained notices of obituary, and many societies passed resolutions of regret.

Thus we have very briefly and imperfectly, but as fully as our information would allow, attempted to fulfill your desire to give you a notice of Charles Downing. The industrious in praiseworthy work, as well as the righteous "Shall be held in everlasting remembrance."

THE Canadian Horticulturist.



AN Illustrated
Monthly Journal, devoted to the interests of Fruit Growers, Gardeners, and Gentlemen owning rural or suburban homes.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year, entitling the subscriber to membership of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario and all its privileges, including a copy of its valuable Annual Report, and a share in its annual distribution of plants and trees.

This Journal is not published in the interests, or for the pecuniary advantage of any one, but its pages are devoted wholly to the progress of Horticultural Science and Art in Canada. We aim at the development of the fruit growing industry in our Province; at the general distribution of knowledge con-

cerning all the newest and best varieties of fruits; and at the education of a refined taste in the art of decorative gardening around the homes of our Canadian people.

With such ends in view we invite the co-operation of the lovers of Horticulture both in extending the membership of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, and in contributing to these pages such items as may be of general interest and profit.

Report for 1886.—I am sorry to notice in the *Horticulturist*, that '86 report is under the usual size. By the way, I would like to see those reports bound by the Ontario Government. I have to pay 70 cents a copy to get them bound. D. E. BLOOMFIELD, Scotland.

It is a matter of general regret that the Report for 1886 should be so unusually small. The Report for the winter meeting at Stratford, in February, '86, was taken down by an incompetent stenographer, and therefore fully one-half the matter was lost. We can safely promise the members of our Association a large enough Report of this year's papers and discussions to make up for that of '86.

The Secretary is now mailing the Report of 1886, having waited vainly for that of The Entomological Society. The latter will be sent separately when ready.

It would indeed be highly appreciated by us if the Ontario Government would continue binding the Reports, and we hope yet to obtain such a favor.

Firming the Soil.—In planting trees, vines, plants, or cuttings, especially in dry weather, it is all important to press down the earth firmly about them. Probably a good many of the complaints of failure with plants received from the Association have resulted from neglect of this important item. The planting of a tree seems to be a very simple operation, and yet the inexperienced planter will often make most egregious blunders. The hole