

to endure our sudden alterations of temperature and to resist the attacks of mildew. We were not able to find a leaf that showed any sign of suffering from any cause whatever. The bunches are of good size and very compact. The berries are of the same size as the Concord, and, when perfectly ripe, of a light, greenish, amber color. The skin is tough, does not crack so far as we can discover, and seems likely to bear handling and carriage well. The pulp is soft, juicy, sweet, of good flavor, with a little touch of that peculiar muskiness which shows its American origin. The fruit begins to ripen with Hartford Prolific, and will continue to hang on the vines, not only without injury but gradually improving in sweetness and richness, until hard frosts indicate the near approach of winter. We shall be very much disappointed if this grape does not take the same place among white grapes as the Concord has taken among the black. Everything about the vine indicates constitutional health, vigor and hardiness."

How truly have these prophetic words of Mr. D. W. Beadle, written twenty-three years ago, been fulfilled regarding this grape!

Of course, like all other introducers of novelties, Messrs. Hoag & Clark made some rather extravagant statements, as for example, the following paragraph: "The Niagara grape grows, thrives and produces its enormous crops in the cold of northern Canada, the heat of South Carolina, from New Jersey to Michigan, wherever planted, and can be shipped to the most distant markets; it is equalled by no other grape for vineyard planting; and every farmer in grape growing sections should have a large and substantial vineyard of Niagaras. If the instructions we give for its management are observed, it will soon pay off the mortgages and leave a balance to invest, besides furnishing a genuine and attractive business for the boys who get tired of the old ways of

small or no profits and leave home for other fields." It is quite true that very high prices were obtained for this grape when it was first placed upon the markets, the average being about ten cents a pound; and certainly, could such a price have been maintained for the Niagara grape with its enormous crops, farmers would very soon have made fortunes out of it; but unfortunately, as soon as the large plantations came into bearing, the price dropped to about the level of the Concord.

For several years we have been trying to open an export trade in the Concord and Niagara grapes, hoping that a market might be encouraged for them in Great Britain, in view of the high prices prevalent there for their home grown varieties; but so far we have been disappointed, and our shipments have brought nothing in return to pay for the grapes, after the expenses were fully met. Strange an Englishman should be so different here from the same man at home, for walking through our vineyards we notice he plucks and eats our Niagaras with as keen a relish as any native born Canadian; while in England he despises these grapes and lets them go begging for a buyer at twopence and threepence a pound, preferring to pay two shillings a pound for Black Hamburgs!

The vine of the Niagara is as healthy and vigorous as the Concord, and about as productive; the bunches are very compact and at the same time very large, sometimes measuring six inches long by four across and weighing nearly a pound. The berry is roundish; in color, pale green, turning pale yellow at maturity, and is covered with a delicate whitish bloom; the pulp is soft, juicy and sweet, of good flavor when fully ripe, but with a muskiness. The quality for desert purposes is very good when fully ripe, and for canning it is counted among the best.

REPORTS ON THE NIAGARA GRAPE.

R. B. WHYTE, Ottawa:—The Niagara grape is not considered satisfactory for this