

a necessity. Our *Horticulturist* also seems to have made a strike on this line. The rose has received a memorable notice, why not the pine? The lettuce and other vegetables have come in for attention, why not the osage, thorn and maple?

Who is to give the initiative in the new departure? What strong man to stand forth and take the lead? Who is to gather up the threads of all these requirements for our country's good? I look to the members of our Fruit Growers' Association. They have done much in the past, and they may do much in the time to come.

I have just returned from fulfilling an invitation to the New York State Fair at Elmira. The Horticultural Society of Western New York take all kindred subjects under their wing. I may say that the members of this Society greatly bulk at this Annual State Fair. The courtesies of Mr. Ellwanger, Mr. Barry, Mr. Hoffman, President, of Mr. Harrison, the efficient Secretary, to your President will not be soon forgotten.

The machinery, which facilitates the working of the New York State Fair, runs very smoothly. Every thing is well appointed. We were much struck at the entrance fee being fifty cents. The usual amount of agricultural and horticultural implements were on exhibition—Syracuse chilled ploughs—reapers, which are self-binders with string—potato diggers—separators, and a countless host of nostrums for facilitating the labours of the husbandman. The samples of fruit and flowers were good. Ellwanger & Barry, of the Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, exhibited a fine collection of apples, grapes, pears and quinces. Mr. Vick was there, as he is here, with his grand display of flowers. J. H. Ricketts, and his splendid hybrids, was conspicuous—in a *recherche* collection like that of the Newburg exhibitor, it was difficult to distinguish his best varieties. To our taste and that of my well-known colleague, Mr. Fuller, of New York, Rickett's Lady Washington was *facile princeps*. A seedling peach shown by a Mrs. Bliss was greatly superior in flesh and quality to the Crawford Early, and is a peach which, we are satisfied, will yet make a noise in the world.

A horticulturist of Elmira showed a dozen samples of Tompkin's County King. They were the king of apples. One was 23 ounces weight and measured  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches in circumference any way. The twelve together weighed 13 pounds 13 ounces.

Cattle—Short-horns, Ayrshires and Jerseys—sheep and pigs made a good show, and Mr. Joe Jardine, of our Province, did not come off second best with his Ayrshires. Horses, however, are the grand staple at the New York State Fair, and they were splendid.

But I digress. There is a mighty difference between horses, sheep and pigs, and apples, pears and grapes.

I would suggest to the F. G. Association, as I have already suggested to the Board of Agriculture, that we would be doing ourselves infinite credit by inviting a limited number of the foremost fruit-growers in the Northern States of the Union, such as those of New York, Ohio and Michigan, to come over and be our judges of fruit at one of our Provincial shows. Much benefit would result to us and them. Ellwanger, Barry; Robert J. Swan, of Geneva, Fuller, of New York; Thomas, of Union Springs; Quinn, of New Jersey; Bateham and Campbell, of Ohio, are each and all eminent in their profession in their own country, and would lend a lustre to ours if they came amongst us as invited guests to judge of our Provincial fruit productions. Such a suggestion is well worthy of the best consideration of our Association, and I have little fear, if recommended by you to the enlightened Board of Agriculture and Arts, they would at once see and appreciate the propriety and advantage of the step.

I am nearly done. I have merely to say further in reference to the means to be employed for the furtherance of the interests of our Association in the future, that, whenever the funds permit of it, we should diligently add to our appliances, a technical library on horticulture, floriculture and forestry. I trust our members are not forgetful of the donation which we received a number of years ago from Sir William Young, of Nova Scotia, of his late father's work on agriculture, issued to the world under the *nom de plume* of "Agricola;" of the liberal contribution of the Hon. Marshall Pinckney Wilder of the transactions, in eight volumes, of the American Pomological Society. I would further take the liberty of suggesting to you, gentlemen, on this occasion, that the Secretary be empowered to collect and bind all periodicals, either received in exchange or bought, illustrative of our chosen culture.

In conclusion, should some effort not be made by us to occupy Manitoba, and British

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