

all his neighbors by means of a secret method of managing the culture, and which method he had most successfully practised at Philadelphia. So well did he keep his secret that for many years it was not even guessed at; and he supplied nine-tenths of all the strawberries consumed in Cincinnati, making thereby a very handsome competency. To give Mr. Longworth's own words: "While I could, from one-fourth of an acre scarcely raise one bushel of strawberries, he (Abergust) would raise 40 bushels. His fruit was much larger than any other brought to market, and commanded from 25 cents [1s.] to 37½ cents (1s. 6d.) per quart. His secret he kept to himself, and my attention was first led to the subject by a casual remark of his son's to me one day in my garden—that I must get very little fruit, as my plants were all males. I then investigated the matter, and soon discovered that there were what he called male and female plants—a fact I communicated to our market gardeners. The result was that strawberries rapidly increased in our market, until as fine as Mr. Abergust's were sold at from 3 cents (1½d.) to 10 cents (3d) per quart.

There can be little doubt that this gardener, Abergust, obtained his knowledge, either directly or indirectly, from Mr. Keen, who had promulgated the information he had required some short time previously. Through Mr. Longworth, Keen's discovery and Abergust's secret was thoroughly ventilated in the United States, and is now universally known in that part of America, where strawberry growing is carried on to an extent little dreamed of in this country.

One individual grower (Mr. Culbertson, of Cincinnati) sends to market sometimes 4,000 to 5,000 quarts a day, employing 60 persons to pick them. Numerous cases are known of 5,000 quarts per acre being obtained in one season; and it is held as an undoubted fact that, by cultivating hermaphrodites (as we do in England), instead of pistillates, only from one tenth to one-third of a crop can be obtained.

By far the largest and most delicious strawberries in the world, to our knowledge, are those of Chili; and we think plants and seeds from that country might advantageously be brought and domesticated here. Certainly the finest strawberry plant we have ever seen is that of Mr. John Robertson, of Paisley, which is known under the name of "The Wizard of the North", (that is supposing the authorised coloured drawing of the plant, in full bearing, to be a true and faithful representation). Sundry apparently respectable and trustworthy persons testify by letter to having seen it with 78 fine large fruit at one time upon a single plant.

Having obtained a good pistillate, who would be apt to suppose that we had the utmost we could reasonably hope for; but in this we should err very greatly, indeed; for Mr. Charles Peabody, of Columbus, in Georgia, has clearly demonstrated that it is possible to obtain a suc-

cession of fruit from the same plants for many months in the year, instead of only one bearing. This most indefatigable gentleman has, in truth, reduced the culture of the strawberry to a perfect science. His is no small garden cultivation, but comprises many large fields, embracing a very considerable acreage, and justified by more than 15 years constant observation and experience. His plan deserves all possible attention and respect. He selects some good pistillate of an ever-bearing variety; and, to impregnate this, he also chooses a good, ever-bearing hermaphrodite, planting seven rows of pistillates, then one row of hermaphrodites, and so on throughout the field. For many years the varieties he employed were the Hovey's seedling pistillates, and the early scarlet hermaphrodites, both flowering regularly together, and both being ever-bearing. Recently he has widely disseminated a seedling of his own, and named after himself.

It is believed that all these valuable seedlings have been originally obtained by judicious crosses with the hardy, ever-bearing, or monthly wild strawberry, such as the monthly Alpine, or others of a similar type. Certainly it is, that not only Mr. Peabody, but numerous other persons throughout the States, obtained by simple field culture a continuous bearing of fruit, from early spring until the winter's frost sets in—a thing altogether unknown in this country, although quite as practicable here as there.

Mr. Peabody, in his statement, given in the "United States Agricultural Report," says:—

"It is now well known throughout the Southern States that for many years I have cultivated the strawberry extensively, and have had from my beds a constant succession of fruit six months, and frequently 10 months in the year. While I am now writing (Dec. 24) one of my beds (of an acre) is loaded with ripe fruit, specimens of which I have sent to New Orleans, Montgomery, Charleston, New York, &c. This bed has scarcely produced a runner the last season, the causes of which will be found in my method of culture. I prefer a sandy soil—that is, a sandy loam with a good mixture of vegetable matter, in which the plants stand 8 to 10 inches apart. In the fall of the year I go over the field with sharp hoes, cutting up all runners, and leaving them on the ground to decay. Somewhat later, I cover the whole field with partially decomposed leaves from the woods or swamps; the ruins of winter beat down these leaves; the fruit germ finds its way through them, and the first mild weather of spring the blossoms appear. If I desired to obtain an abundance of leaves and strong runners all over my beds. I should employ animal manure; but as I want fruit, and no runners, I never use animal manure of any kind—nothing but leaf-mould, and an occasional sprinkle of wood ashes. The leaf-mould keeps the ground cool and moist, and the fruit clean, and does not stimulate the root to make runners. Whatever runners are made,