

confounded with the Lady Washington, a noble grape where it succeeds, but not early enough to ripen well in this climate.

Of the

#### NEWER WHITE GRAPES

The *Empire State* has already attained considerable prominence. It is a cross between the Hartford and the Clinton, and ripens about with the former. The berries are a little smaller than those of the Niagara, but pleasanter to the taste being less foxy, just as juicy, and of a rich, sweet and sprightly flavor.

*Jessica* is a Canadian seedling, and is highly commended. It is claimed to be excellent in quality, hardy, and as early as the Champion.

And now we have before us a new claimant for popular favor, and one which boldly aspires to a leading place among our best white grapes viz:—

*Moore's Diamond*, which is represented in the colored plate. It is one of a lot of 2500 seedlings raised by Jacob Moore, of Brighton, N. Y., and is a cross between the Concord and the Iona. Its introducers speak of it as follows:

"It is a prolific bearer, producing large, handsome, compact bunches, slightly shouldered. The color is a delicate greenish white, with a rich yellow tinge when fully ripe; skin smooth and entirely free from the brown specks or dots which characterize many of the new white varieties; very few seeds, juicy and almost entirely free from pulp, which makes it almost transparent when held up to the light. Berry about the size of the Concord, and adheres firmly to the stem.

In quality, no other white grape in the market can compare with it. It is as much superior to the other leading white grapes as the Brighton is superior to Concord. In fact we believe that

nurserymen and fruit growers will find in this grape what they have been so long looking for, a hardy early and prolific white grape of fine quality."

All this however must be taken *cum grano salis*, until we have ourselves tested it in Canada, and are in a position either to deny or confirm it. Should it prove of excellent quality, and two or three weeks earlier than the Concord, and hardy withal, we shall certainly welcome it into our Canadian Vineyards.

#### TOP-GRAFTING OLD TREES.

MR. JOHN CROIL, of Aultsville, writes us the following letter on this subject:

"SIR:—I enclose an article from the pen of Mr. James Dougall, which appeared in the *Montreal Witness* some years ago. While I agree on the main with some opinions expressed in the the January number of the *Horticulturist*, that the Snow Apple and other pestilence breeding kinds should be cut down and burned, when there is a large proportion of such trees in an orchard, Mr. Dougall's plan, I think, might restore the trees to healthy productiveness without disfiguring the orchard. He claims for it the advantage that it removes the risk of moisture getting in at the cleft, when the grafting wax comes off, which it generally does, causing often decay, and the death if not of the tree, at least of the grafted branch."

The article referred to advises the following plan:—

"Very late in winter or very early in spring before vegetation has commenced in the least, saw off the main branches of the tree all over so as to form a symmetrical head, cutting clean out all small or badly placed branches. A very fine pruning saw should be used and the cut should be made slanting so as to throw the water off. The wounds could be painted over with gum