



### Toronto Gardeners' Improvement Society.

We have received a copy of the Fourth Annual Report of this Association, whose operations during the past year have been highly encouraging, notwithstanding the removal of some of its prominent members, and the interruption caused by the public excitement in the Province, in connexion with the Fenian raid—causes which must have had an unfavorable influence on the attendance at meetings, &c. The report states that at the various meetings during the year a number of important subjects have been discussed, and interesting floral specimens, some of them of novel character, have been submitted—amongst others a collection of Epacris, and select specimens of Azaleas, Camellias, Dahlias and Roses. As a means of encouraging the exhibition of new and rare specimens of horticultural produce, the committee suggest “that a show-case be instituted in some convenient and appropriate place, where any thing new and rare in the way of fruits, flowers, or vegetables might be exhibited. For such an exhibition the fittest place would be the Messrs. Fleming & Co.'s window in Agricultural Hall, Toronto. Any article exhibited in such a case, accompanied with a statement of its locality, mode of raising, habits, and peculiarities distinguishing it from other varieties, would thus come before the notice of all interested in the subject, would be noticed by the press, and become the subject of discussion at the meetings of the Society.”

An important object contemplated by the Society was to bring within the reach of its members as many as possible of the best periodicals and other works on horticultural subjects. In furtherance of this object the following journals have been distributed:—*The Cottage Gardener* and *Journal of Horticulture*, the *Pomologist*, and *Gardeners' Monthly*. These, after having been in circulation are, now, complete for the last four years, in possession of the society. In addition to this, through the alliance effected with the Dialectical Division Society, the Gardeners' Association has been able to procure from England important standard works on gardening, which will, no doubt, prove a very valuable acquisition. The report thus concludes:—“You have by united efforts been successful in restoring the summer exhibitions, as well as in forming the nucleus of a Horticultural Library, a want hitherto much felt in Toronto; and with such prospects before you, your committee re- assure, with the assurance that the beneficial effects of the Society will yet exceed the anticipations of its originators.”

### Address of Judge Logie.

PRESIDENT OF THE UPPER CANADA FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN HAMILTON.

GENTLEMEN.—In performance of that part of my duty which requires me to deliver an address at the annual meeting, I shall on the present occasion confine myself to some general remarks on the progress made in fruit culture since the formation of this association.

It is not many years ago since it was almost impossible for those who had no gardens of their own, to procure any of the finer varieties of fruit. There were no fruit shops, and fruit was not cultivated for sale, with the exception of apples, which were cultivated, though not nearly to a sufficient extent to supply the demand. At present there are numerous fruit shops in every city and town in the Province, where the best varieties of fruit can be obtained, and I believe that by far the greater part of the fruit sold and consumed in Canada is produced in the country. In

fact Canada, particularly that part bordering on the head of Lake Ontario, is becoming what its soil and climate so well adapt it to become, a great fruit growing country. I believe that ere many years elapse, Canada will not only fully supply the demand arising within the country, but that large quantities will be raised for exportation.

In referring to the progress made in fruit culture I must particularly allude to the progress made in the cultivation of the Grape. It has long been known that the climate of Canada is admirably adapted to the cultivation of the apple, strawberry, raspberry, and some other varieties of fruit; but it is only of late years that it has been found well adapted to the cultivation of the Grape. So late as 1861, Dr. Hurlburt, then Vice-President of this Association, delivered an address before the members at the annual meeting, in which he compared the climate of Canada with the climates of several of the Vine Growing Countries of Europe, and showed that the summer temperature is as high and in some places higher than in some of the most favoured vine growing regions; and that as the vine only requires heat to bring its fruit to perfection, the vine should be cultivated successfully and profitably in Canada.

The results of the past six years have proved that the climate of Canada is well adapted to the cultivation of the Grape. Instead of there being but few varieties in cultivation, and those only in private gardens and on a small scale, we have now in very general cultivation a great many new and greatly improved varieties, and the cultivation is not limited to a few amateurs; there are now several large and many smaller vineyards, where grapes are cultivated extensively for sale, and for the manufacture of wine. And from these grapes in many places considerable quantities of wholesome and palatable wine is being made. So rapid has been the increase, and so general the taste for vine culture, that we may confidently expect that a part of Canada at all events will be known as a land of vineyards.

For several years past the attention of members of this Association has been directed to the discussion and examination of a great many new varieties of grape, and one of our most active and useful members, Mr. Arnold of Paris, has by hybridization succeeded in producing several new and very promising varieties of fruit.

During the past year we have had the usual number of meetings, and I think of more than usual interest, particularly the last one held at Grimsby, where members had an opportunity not only of seeing a very large selection of fruit, but also of examining some of the neighbouring vineyards.

While the science of pomology is thus making satisfactory progress, and while this Association has done something to aid the cause, much more could be accomplished if those interested in fruit culture in different parts of the country would join and take part in our discussions; a much greater variety of knowledge and experience being brought to bear upon the subject, much greater results would be attained. Another result of a large membership would be, that as the expenses of management would not be increased; we would have some money to spare, to devote as prizes, either for the production of new varieties of fruit, or for the best essays on subjects connected with fruit culture, or the money might be devoted to the publication of our proceedings and reports, whichever might be deemed best calculated to advance the cause of pomology.

I hope therefore that members will not only attend our meetings themselves, but that they will exert themselves to procure additional members by pointing out the advantages which will accrue to themselves as well as to the Association from attendance at our meetings.

**KEEPING APPLES IN WINTER.**—At the last State Fair in Utica, N.Y., Delos Randall had on Exhibition Russett apples grown a year ago. These apples were plump, fresh, and of a good flavor, quite as good as the same kind of apples are ordinarily on the approach of spring. We inquired as to the manner of keeping, and were informed that the apples were put in refusal boxes obtained at the groceries, and in the following manner:—A layer of dry sawdust was sprinkled at the bottom of the box, and then a layer of apples placed in it so that they do not touch other. Upon these was placed a little layer of sawdust, and so on until the box was filled. The boxes, after being packed in this way, were placed on the wall in the cellar, up from the ground, where they kept, perfectly retaining their freshness and flavor, until brought out and exhibited at the fair. He says that he has kept apples in this way some months later.

### Report of New Hybrid Grapes.

Read by Mr. ARNOLD, of Paris, at the Annual Meeting of the Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association, January 16th, 1867.

I THINK it quite necessary to preface the report that I am now about to give of my new grapes, by saying that the character of a seedling grape will generally require at least ten years to become fully developed, and according to my experience in grape seedlings, if I get a true hybrid, and it gives any promise of being good the first year of bearing, it will generally continue to improve for several years after. I thought it advisable to mention this fact, at this time, in order to prevent members, who may be raising hybrid fruit, from rejecting them too hastily, and because of the pleasing probability that when next called upon to report upon these grapes, I shall be enabled to give a more flattering account of most of them than I am at this time. I shall on the present occasion confine my remarks to seven varieties, and in describing the fruit will generally use the exact language of gentlemen who have examined it upon the vines, or to whom the fruit has been sent. Among the latter are Hon. M. P. Wilder, of Boston, and Thomas Meehan, Esq., Editor of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, Philadelphia.

No. 1.—Vine hardy, ripening its wood early in the season; very productive. Fruit ripens a little earlier than Delaware; ripened this year with Hartford; “bunch large, compact, handsome; berries large, round, rosy, bluish; flesh tender and juicy as a Black Hamburg; seeds small, separating easily with the pulp; flavour mild, pleasant, entirely free from the aroma of the wild Fox Grape; a variety of much promise.”

The following six are all seedlings of the Clinton, mixed with Black St. Peters and the Golden Chasselas. In a private letter to me last November, Mr. Meehan, Editor of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, says of these varieties:—

“I think your grapes the greatest improvement we have ever made in grapes; I shall, however, say more in the *Gardeners' Monthly*. I have delayed to write to you about them, as I have kept them on hand till now, to show to every one who has called, and all are delighted with them.”

No. 2.—Hardy; very early; long, compact shouldered bunch; berry larger than Delaware, round, rosy, bluish; thin skinned, sweet and good; considered very promising for wine; ripens considerably before the Delaware.

No. 5.—Vine hardy; ripens with Delaware or a little earlier; bunch long, sometimes shouldered; berry medium size, round, colour white, thin skin; flavour sweet and rich; seeds small; “the most promising white grape I have seen.”

No. 8. This variety has a very distinct, deep lobed, dark coloured leaf; vine hardy; bunch large, rather loose; berries bluish, medium size, thin skin; flavour very peculiar, much admired by some for its singular taste, and by others thought to be good only for wine.

No. 11.—Vine hardy, and the fruit, when ripe, so nearly resembles Black St. Peters, both in appearance and flavour, that it is difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

No. 16.—This grape, both in fruit and vine, much resembles Clinton, and ripens about the same time; it is, however, of much richer flavour, and this season many persons have pronounced it the best flavoured grape grown in my grounds.

No. 17.—Similar to No. 16 in appearance of vine, but a much larger bunch, and an enormous bearer; the fruit is not so rich a table grape as No. 15, but much better than Clinton; ripens a few days later than No. 16.

In Malton market, (England,) on Saturday week, and again on Monday, Mr. Muckell, a green-grocer, astonished his customers by offering “new potatoes, Christmas.” The novelty was so great that some of the best tubers sold for over 1d. a piece. The potatoes had been grown in the open ground—*Farmer (Scottish)*