

the tender plants in the neighborhood of the town are scarcely felt at Orleans, and dahlias, heliotropes, and other sensitive plants, remain in bloom there for several weeks longer than on the main land.

The luxuriant growth of the wild vine leads one to suppose that the wine producing grape might here be profitably grown, and the Island thus become in very deed, as in name, a Canadian "Isle of Bacchus."

The salubrity of the climate is also remarkable; during the years 1832 and 1834, when the cholera decimated the whole of the surrounding country, there was not a case at Orleans: the air is clear and bracing with cool breezes from the River, and invalids coming to the Island for change of air seem to gain new life and strength as if by magic.

How it happens that this Island, with its great natural advantages, proximity to the city, and superior climate, is so little known to the citizens of Quebec, even at the present day, is a mystery to me. The Governors and *notables*, in the time of the French, used to make it their summer retreat, and gladly avail themselves of its cool breezes and delightful walks.

A commencement has been made by the erection of several villas, and the establishment of a regular Steam Ferry to the city, and I believe that the time is not far distant when the Isle of Orleans, like Staten Island in the Bay of New York, will vie with the surrounding districts in the number and beauty of its country seats.