

linen trade, and many thousands are employed in its factories. Quite a number of the operatives are unfortunately out of employment, in consequence of the American troubles. I was not fortunate in finding your friend, Professor Hodges of the Queen's College, at home.

The College is an extensive and handsome building, mainly of brick, with stone facings, not equal, however, to the university of Toronto, but based on the same non-denominational principle, and open freely to all. I had time to visit the Botanic Gardens close by, and was highly delighted with this interesting and beautiful retreat. It is mainly supported by subscription; government, I understand, affording little if any aid. Mr. Fergusson, the head gardener or Curator was very obliging, and the arrangements of the grounds and healthy state of the trees and flowers indicate the combination of no ordinary skill and industry. The *Auricularia Impuricata* grows finely here, some noble specimens being 16 feet high, of beautiful proportions. Laurels attain to a great size, some fine trees 35 yards in circumference, and 25 feet high. Their red berries and verdant shewing foliage must contrast strikingly and pleasingly with the snows of winter.

From Belfast we proceeded by railway to Dublin, staying a day at an inland town called Ennaghon. The country along this route is well cultivated and looks remarkably well. The potatoes, of which there is a large breadth, looked exceedingly promising, and I heard nothing of the disease. Hay and oats were a good crop; the former was being cut, but the difficulty seemed to be to cure it, in consequence of damp, cloudy weather. Every expedient was tried to dry it; groups of laborers in the fields shaking out the mown grass with their rakes and fork, but we were told that in some cases, reaping, mowing, and tedding machines were employed, but which were unpopular with the laborers, who threatened them with destruction.—Dublin is indeed a fine city, favourably situated, and surrounded by a wide and beautiful country, interspersed with the splendid residences of the nobility and gentry. The Phoenix Park, immediately adjoining the city, and comprising 1400 statute acres, is a princely domain, well arranged walks and drives, and beautifully adorned with magnificent groups of fortresses, and deer are to be seen by thousands. These fine grounds is the residence of the Lieutenant. My visit to the Royal Botanic Garden at Glasnevin, one of the many beautiful suburbs of Dublin, afforded both instruction and pleasure. The gardens are prettily arranged, with capacious green and hot houses; and one of large dimensions is now in course of erection. The specimens of rare exotics are numerous and exceedingly fine, while the palms and other tropical plants have attained a great height, and are generally of beautiful proportions. This garden is mainly supported, I believe, by the Government, and the Curator, Mr. ... is a gentleman of distinguished attainments in all that relates to practical and orna-

mental gardening.—There is another Botanic Garden, in connection with Trinity College, an old and magnificent institution, arranged for the practical teaching of Botany, general and medical, which appears well adapted to its valuable purposes.

Leaving Dublin I crossed the channel to Holyhead in Wales, and from thence by rail to Chester, passing over the Menai Straits, a narrow arm of the sea dividing Anglesea from Carnarvonshire, through the celebrated tubular Bridge, which is a mean affair indeed compared to the later one at Montreal. This is an interesting ride, the highest mountains of Wales being visible in the distance. Passed the ancient cathedral town of Bangor, near which are most extensive slate quarries, and the residence of Col. Pennant of Penryn Castle, who has a herd of short-horns second perhaps to none in the United Kingdom. The gardens and grounds belonging to this princely residence are proportionately beautiful and extensive. Most of this country is only adapted to hill pasture, for small black cattle and heath sheep, the mutton of which is superb. The valleys are generally wide and beautiful, yielding heavy crops of grass and also of roots and grain; but at present in consequence of the ungenial state of the season, the crops in general look but indifferent.—I had an opportunity of staying part of the day in the fine old city of Chester, and of walking around its walls, which are still, notwithstanding their great antiquity, in a good state of preservation. Every street contains houses or buildings that are rare specimens of the old style, extending back many centuries. The soil around here appears in most places to be very rich, — the pastures appearing peculiarly so. It happened to be one of the market days for the sale of horses, the display of strong, heavy animals was very large; a description by no means generally adapted to Canada. From this to London we passed over, for the most part, a very fine country; the crops were better and forwarder, much of the hay having been secured, but, I was told, in rather indifferent order.—The English mode of hay-making involves a great deal of labor, which is conducted upon system; and it is surprising to a stranger how they succeed so well in making comparatively good hay in seasons like the present.

I remained in London eight days, during which time I was wholly taken up in sight seeing, of which I can only be said to have made a commencement. I have neither time nor ability to describe any thing fully and must leave the magnificent Exhibition to abler hands. Although the Canadian department is small, and for mere display cuts a poor figure compared with some others, yet we have a number of good things, that attract attention, and have received a full share of medals. The one awarded to myself for a collection of agricultural and horticultural grains and seeds, I duly appreciate.

I afterwards proceeded to France, having a strong desire to see the gardens and horticultural operations in the vicinity of Paris. The-