



CONSERVATORY AT CHESNUT PARK.

### Horticulture.

#### Hon. D. L. McPherson's Grounds and Conservatory.

The late illustrious and lamented Prince Consort finely pronounced gardening "one of the fine arts." It deserves to be recognized in this character, just in proportion as it rises above supplying the mere cravings of the appetite. Gardening, whenever it contemplates refined and innocent pleasure, certainly deserves to rank among what are known as the fine arts. It deserves the characterization as fully as music, painting, or poetry. It is eminently fitted to be the medium of the purest and most exquisite enjoyment. In the morning of the world it was deemed pure enough by the Great Architect of the universe to be a fitting employment for unsullied humanity in Paradise. In this utilitarian nineteenth century of ours, the more we seek to appreciate the dignity and wondrous beauty of "every freckle, streak, and stain of His unrivalled pencil," as seen in the gay parterre, the green-house, or the dusty wayside, the better do we comprehend the silent melodies of nature, and obtain larger and broader views of man and his mission. A sense of natural beauty may be said to be innate in human nature. In the flower garden we have not only every variety of classic beauty in a high degree, but the accompaniments of fresh air, exercise, and pleasant surroundings. The enjoyment of the flower garden does not depend on an accurate botanical acquaintance with the flowers composing it. A lady with but slight knowledge of plants, may enjoy it as a kind of open air drawing-room, carpeted with nature's verdant handiwork, its walls formed by graceful trees, its ceiling the deep blue sky, and lighted with the glorious effulgence of the blessed sun. To a finely-tuned mind, the mere pleasure of beholding and appreciating such a garden may be

termed "a liberal education." In Britain we could point to many charming landscape gardens, but in our comparatively new country they are not yet so numerous. We are glad to observe, however, that a taste for the beautiful is steadily assuming a shape in our midst. In many localities, we could indicate, choice lawns, flower borders, and even conservatories, have sprung into existence within recent years. Foremost among these prattifying manifestations of elevated taste, and superiority to mere money-

beyond the village of Yorkville. That the enterprising proprietor, the Hon. D. L. McPherson, is a gentleman of cultivated mind and refined taste, is evident from the charming scene of natural and artificial beauty he has created about him. The place, we understand, came into his possession somewhere about ten years ago. At that time, the ground which now forms Chesnut Park was merely an undulating table-land of unkindly clay soil, pleasantly overlooking a pretty wooded valley on the south. During these ten years an artistic conception of natural resources at command, backed by careful and conscientious execution, and a liberal expenditure of means, have transformed the place from its original wild state into a comparative paradise, as our illustration will abundantly show. Our space will not admit of even a bare enumeration of the many charming features which attract the eye everywhere about the grounds, and especially in the conservatory and vineries. The extent of the lawns, and the soft velvety turf with which they are covered, are superb. During the floral season, the flower-plots and borders,—cultivated on what is known as the ribbon pattern,—are conceived in the most exquisite taste. The trees which skirt the margin of the grounds are unexceptionably fine. An occasional specimen of choice statuary lends a classic charm to the place, while the delightful play of the fountain in the summer months, has a refreshing influence on the spectator. The view of the conservatory, as represented by our artist, is its eastern aspect. As will be observed, the direction of the main building is north and south. The vinery is connected with it, and is that portion shown branching eastward at a right angle to the conservatory. The whole range of the



CISSUS DISCOLOR.

boarding, are the splendid grounds and conservatory at Chesnut Park, which form the subject of the elegant illustration, herewith presented to our readers. As many of them are, doubtless, aware, this fine residence is situated on Yonge Street, a short distance

two departments measures close upon 240 feet in length. In their construction no less than 12,000 square feet of glass were employed. During winter, and when the temperature of the atmosphere renders it necessary, the buildings are heated by means of