

his house and found him and his wife at breakfast. His wife told me afterwards that she felt greatly embarrassed, when I entered, because (supposing I had had no breakfast) they had neither tea nor coffee on the table, having adopted the simple beverage of cold water. She was, however, entirely relieved when I informed her that for many years I had drunk nothing else. I mention this incident to show their simple manner and mode of living, although owning and living in one of the finest residences on the banks of the Hudson. Charles Downing

**GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FRUITS,** and to securing accurately the many varieties in cultivation, more so than his brother, and to him mainly was to be attributed the reliability of everything they raised. I procured of him on one occasion a number of valuable articles and asked him for his bill. "I have no bill," he replied, "and if that is not satisfactory, you may do as much for somebody else when opportunity offers." The same pleasant and generous course was often pursued by him. He made it a point to procure every variety of fruit he could hear of that was deemed worthy of cultivation; and his correspondence was extensive to all parts of the Union for grapes and specimens of fruits. Although he had procured these he seemed glad to disseminate at any time to all who desired. He retired from the nursery business some thirty years ago, and then gave his attention more exclusively to pomology.

Charles Downing, giving up his business in the winter of 1857 and 8, and for the next ten years used his place as an experimental garden, where he tested and fruited

**MANY THOUSANDS OF VARIETIES** in their greatest possible range. He being very quiet and reticent in his

daily habits, his life was an unobstructive and uneventful one, he scarcely ever making himself public through the papers, and not very frequently attending the horticultural or other meetings, and when he did so had seldom much to say.

**WORK! HARD, PERSISTENT WORK!** seemed to be his motto, and in that he was eminently successful. After his active outside activity he spent very much of his later years of life in rewriting, revising and adding to the popular national work of his younger, brilliant but deceased brother. The

**FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES OF AMERICA** is now the only monument of the brilliant A. J. D., but it also owes much to the careful work and deeper experience of the elder Charles. It is a pillar of renown, and will stand a monumental remembrance of the Downings. Charles several times added to it much valuable new matter, being all the result of his own deep observation and extensive experiments, and finally had the great satisfaction of living to see his great work carried successfully through the press,

OCTOBER 22ND, 1882.

Mr. Downing suffered severely from the injuries caused by an accident in the city of New York, which laid him up for many weeks in helplessness. During his time many very valuable notices of worth and respect were issued from the various sections of the press, all of which were very pleasing to the many friends of the injured gentleman. To quote again from a lady friend, "Not a garden in the land or a home worthy of the name that is not the better for his steadfast watchful devotion to the progress of our horticulture." Mr. Downing kept at his work of testing fruits and making notes up to within a few weeks of his death. He died January 18th, 1885, in his 83rd