

certain time, compelled to take a short course at the Ontario Agricultural College; and that the schoolyards be made ample enough to contain an arboretum of native forest trees and shrubs properly labeled.

The English Sparrow.

THIS bird suffered a shower of well-merited abuse at our winter meeting. A paper on the subject of Economic Ornithology was contributed by Mr. T. McIlwraith, Fellow of the Ornithological Society of North America, in which it was shown that the sparrow not only drives away such birds as the Catbird, the Oriole, the House Wren, Blue Bird, Chipping Sparrow and Yellow Warbler; but also himself is a wholesale destroyer of the fruit buds of the grape vine, peach, pear, plum, cherry, currant, etc., and also garden vegetables. The authority of such eminent observers as J. H. Gurney, Miss Omerod, Prof. Lintner and Dr. Brodie, were adduced in proof of the position taken.

After considerable discussion the following resolution was moved by Prof. Wm. Saunders, seconded by A. M. Smith, and carried unanimously:—"That this Association desires through its officers to approach the Legislature of Ontario, requesting that immediate steps be taken to so modify the law protecting birds as to permit of the destruction of the English Sparrow, including its nests, eggs and young; and further, so as to protect the Great Northern Shrike, the Sparrow Hawk, and the Screech Owl, which feed largely upon the Sparrow."

Mr. McIlwraith's paper will appear in our Report for 1888.

Beds and Bedding Plants

THIS was the subject of a somewhat lengthy but exceedingly valuable paper read by Mr. N. Robertson, Supt. of the Government Grounds at Ottawa. It was illustrated by photographs show-

ing splendid effects produced with bedding plants, and explaining the manner of arrangement. We hope to have these illustrations copied for our Report. We had the pleasure of a visit to the greenhouses under this gentleman's care, and were much interested in finding one of the most complete collections of greenhouse plants in Canada.

The Peach Crop for 1888.

THOSE of us who have engaged largely in peach culture are again in despair. Were it some villain who had broken into our houses and robbed us of from one thousand to three thousand dollars each, we might at least hope for the melancholy satisfaction of seeing him safely housed in a dungeon, but when old "Jack Frost" robs us of an equal amount, we can only "grin and bear it" with as much patience as possible.

When the New York *Herald* announced that the entire Hudson River crop was ruined and the growers despondent, we thought it time to examine our own orchard, and after careful examination, must pronounce the fruit-buds destroyed. The same conclusion is reached by most growers in the Grimsby peach region; reports, however, from the vicinity of the Niagara river are more favorable.

Is there not some means of protecting the peach tree, so that at least we may avoid the humiliation of having a large peach orchard, and yet being compelled to buy peaches for our own family use? The most plausible mode of doing this, which we have heard of, is the following by J. P. Macomber, in the *Rural New Yorker*. He says:—My method of training peach trees is shown in the figure, where *a* is the horizontal trunk, *d* a support to keep the trunk off the ground, and *e* a stake to which the upright trunk is fastened. To train a tree, procure one