

SOME PROMINENT CANADIAN HORTICULTURISTS.—XVIII.

MR. T. H. RACE, OF MITCHELL, ONT.



It is a source of strength to the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association that it numbers among its directors men occupying so many different positions. We are thus able to come in touch with horticultural life in its various phases, and reach the sympathies of a very wide circle of readers. In the composition of our directorate, we have had, in addition to practical fruit growers, ministers, merchants, lawyers, judges, professors, farmers, florists, nurserymen, Civil Service employees, etc., all, of course, practically engaged in some line of horticulture, to such an extent that it amounted almost to a hobby.

With this number of our journal, we have pleasure in introducing to our readers another member of our directorate, who by vocation is an editor, but, at the same time, an ardent lover of the garden and a successful grower of hybrid remontant roses.

Mr. T. H. Race is editor of the *Mitchell Recorder*, a weekly paper, standing well with the general public in Western Ontario, because so ably conducted. A native of Northern England, he was born in 1846; and when a mere boy came to Canada with his parents, who had purchased a farm in the vicinity of Port Hope. He was educated in the excellent high school of that place; and it was while living on a farm in the neighborhood of that romantic town, in full view of Lake Ontario, that he became enamored with the beauties of nature and first

"Held communion with her visible forms."

There, while yet a boy, he was wont to revel with those poets of nature, Byron, Bryant and Emerson, in the solitude of the beach and the adjacent ravines.

His first lessons in the propagation and cultivation of fruit trees were learned among the fruit growers and nurserymen of Rochester, about the time of the Civil War.

Mr. Race continued farming until he was twenty-six years of age, when he entered upon business life. During the years he was thus occupied, he never lost his fondness for the cultivation of fruit and flowers; but it was not until he went to Mitchell and engaged in the newspaper profession in 1880, that he became an enthusiast in fruit culture. His particular hobby is hybrid remontant roses, of which he grows some fifty or sixty varieties.

For many years he has been a reader of the *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* and of the reports of our Association, but he first attended one of our meetings at Hamilton in 1889, and gave a paper on "The Garden." The following year he was elected director for the counties of Perth and Middlesex, and the City of London. In December, 1891, on the election of Mr. A. H. Pettit, as President, Mr. Race was elected Vice-President, a position of honor which his previous literary training and practical experience has well qualified him to fill.