

20 years ago those in cultivation in the Province of Quebec could be counted on the fingers. To-day we find 50 or more which can be classed as standards of more or less value.

To the men who have made the propagation of the grape a specialty we owe a lasting debt of gratitude. Some are now living far along in years, others have passed from their labors, actively engaged to the end of a great age. Few can form any conception of the duration and extent of their labors. One instance, of many may be here cited in the words of the venerable Prof. Munson of Texas. Of a list of 36 varieties of his he deemed entitled to be named, he says: "These varieties, which I have propagated and listed, from amongst my seedlings and hybrids are the cream from about 40,000 grown. If as many as a dozen are permanently retained I shall feel that my work has not been in vain."

Just fancy for a moment what years of labor, hopefulness, anxiety and care are embraced in this modest narrative?

This is only one case in many, besides it is a known fact that most of these men began this work at a period when the out-door grape had not the prominence it now has, and this special work, to use a familiar expression of the age, "had no money in it."

Instances could be given in which some of our greatest benefactors lived and died poor while others realized the money value of their work. One prominent originator and writer, who we are indebted to for his usefulness and work, was the late John Burr, who died two years ago in his 93rd year, devoted to the grape and his theory for its propagation to the end—and his life work may warrant a somewhat extended notice here. Mr. Burr was a man who valued every moment of his time. From early youth a lover of fruit and flowers which passion grew on him till he became one of their most zealous students and devotees. In early life a merchant in his native place, Bridgeport, Conn., but a city not being entirely congenial to his nature, as he held with Cowper,

"The tide of life, swift always in its course,
May run in cities with a brisker force,
But nowhere with a current so serene,
Or half so clear as in the rural scene."

he removed to Columbus, Ohio, then a comparatively new place in the west, but offering conditions suited to his taste. Here he began his experiments in the propagation of new fruit, resulting in the introduction of two strawberries, which are still valued in Ohio. A voracious reader and constant student of nature, his contributions to Horticultural and Botanical journals began to obtain world wide reputation and were carried on for over 50 years. After 20 years residence here, his growing family demanded a change, and he removed to Leavenworth, Kansas, where a biographical sketch says, "The fascination for producing new grapes grew on him; he devoted himself to it with energy, love and enthusiasm."

Darwin's "Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection," opened up to his mind the method of propagation he became noted for. The operation of natural laws had then given the world valuable and enduring varieties in Catawba, Concord and Delaware, and Mr. Burr concluded to take nature in