

The society succeeded last winter, in having no less than nine different conservatories opened to the members and their friends, on various dates between the 24th January and the 29th March. Besides this, special openings were made for the benefit of strangers visiting the city during Carnival week. Those to whom the association is so much indebted are as follows:—Mr. Andrew Allen, Iononteh; Mr. H. Montague Allen, Ravenscraig; Mr. W. B. Davidson, Côte St. Paul; Mr. William Lunn, Bleury street; Mr. John Molson, Sherbrooke street; Mr. David Morrice, Redpath street; Mrs. Redpath, Terrace Bank, Sherbrooke street; Mr. George Stephen, Drummond street, and Hon. Donald A. Smith, Dorchester street. As other new and fine conservatories are being added to those already in existence, the society hopes in the near future to be able to have an even more numerous list open to the members on stated occasions during the winter. While on this subject, would it not be pertinent to ask, will not some of our wealthy men come forward and place our society in a position to have a proper botanic garden of its own? We have many monuments in this city, of the munificence of its citizens; will not some turn the channel of their liberality in this direction? It is a matter of remark, our deficiency in this respect, and there is but little doubt that if the matter was taken hold of energetically, a beginning might at least be made. Many plants would doubtless be presented by individuals and kindred societies with which to make a beginning. I suggested some years ago that something might be done with Dominion Square; but so far no steps have been taken. This spot is large and central, and if turned into a really fine garden, it would be an ornament to the city and tend to enhance the appearance of the fine buildings already erected or in course of erection in the immediate neighborhood.

Matters in connection with fruit have been quiet the past season, no special efforts having been made to get hold of any of our own native varieties, having special points of excellence. Prizes were offered for the best peck of seedling apples to be sent to the society on the 1st May, but nothing new made its appearance, and the first prize was given to a seedling already shown on one or two previous occasions. It is slow work getting people to grasp the importance of what is at first sight a trivial matter—the discovery of a good seedling apple. When you reflect that the fameuse apple pours into the pockets of the farmers and orchardists of Montreal, thousands of dollars every year, the discovery of the apple we are in search of is a matter of some importance. Who is to say that among our numerous native seedlings may not yet be found an apple, which, at a different season of the year, would be as profitable to the grower as our celebrated fameuse? I think that if the society could now lay its plans and offer, instead of three prizes, half a dozen, running from, say, twenty-five dollars down, for the best half bushel of seedling apples to be shown on 1st of May, 1886, that something more effective could be done. There would then be time for those not a few persons, to come forward, who, if they had only known about it in time, could have shown a fruit superior to anything of their neighbors, in fact, just what we are looking after so anxiously. Large prizes would stimulate and they need not be awarded if the fruit was not of special merit.

As some members expressed a wish to have monthly meetings of the society for the

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