

under no obligation to print rejoinders "as long as he may see fit to write," so that Mr. Henry need not fear an interminable conflict. We must judge whether any future communications contain useful facts and arguments, and unless there be some new point of importance raised, or fresh information to be given, we feel disposed to let the combatants rest in their respective corners of the controversial ring, for the present, lest the subject of bee-keeping should grow wearisome. We do not propose to act as umpire in this discussion, but rather to commit that function to the large, and we are glad to know, increasing circle of bee-keepers, who are accustomed to peruse THE CANADA FARMER. We have an opinion about the rival hives, but having only tried one of them, prefer to reserve the expression of it until we have tried the other. It is, however, only right to say that our experience with the Thomas' hive has been such that we can with the utmost confidence recommend it as a thoroughly good one. We put a late swarm into a Thomas' hive, last summer, which filled the lower part of the hive with comb and honey, and a surplus box of 20 lbs. weight, which was removed and appropriated to family use. The bees wintered exceedingly well. On setting the hive out this spring there was no trace of the moth, everything was in excellent trim, and the remaining stock of honey so abundant that we were enabled to divide with the bees. We find that there is ease of examination, perfect control, good ventilation, straightness of comb, and convenient management generally, secured by this hive, and are therefore constrained to speak well of it. It is a matter of congratulation that bee-keeping is being so extensively engaged in all over the country, that there is room for some competition in the manufacture of hives. It has been and shall still be our policy to encourage all who are displaying enterprise in this and other branches of rural economy, to endeavour to excite public interest in every department of domestic industry, and so far as we can consistently do so, to help those who are endeavouring to improve and multiply the facilities for carrying on farming pursuits with efficiency and profit. Rivalries and competitions will arise, but ultimately the public judgment and the public purse must decide the fate of the various inventions and improvements that are brought into being.

### Toronto Horticultural Exhibition.

THE Spring Show of the city of Toronto Electoral Division Society was held in the Music Hall on the 22nd ult. The morning was cold and unpromising, and a raw, blustering wind recalled recollections of March and overcoats. The success of the exhibition was unquestionably marred by these unfavourable atmospheric conditions. Choice stove plants, and exotics generally, cannot be exposed with impunity to such chilling influences. The inevitable consequence was that many beautiful plants remained in the conservatories of their respective proprietors, which, under more favourable circumstances, would have been exhibited in the Music Hall. Several of the orchids shown bore sad traces of the rough usages of angry Boreas. The hardier greenhouse plants, however, such as fuschias and geraniums, looked remarkably well.

The Music Hall is generally well adapted to the purposes of a Horticultural Exhibition. There is ample wall space for the disposal of side tables, while the spacious centre of the room affords every facility for a large pyramidal display. At the same time artistically considered, the colouring of the decorative features of the Hall is unfavourable to the floral beauties of the exhibition. To be seen to advantage, flowers require a subdued and quiet-toned background. As compared with the Spring Show of the Society last year, the exhibition of yesterday was, in some respects, much superior. In geraniums for example we have seldom seen more carefully cultivated plants. The fuschias, too, formed a fine feature, although some of the specimens were not so perfect in shape as we could have desired. Calceolarias, of which there were about thirty specimens in the hall, were particularly good. We have seen larger and more graceful plants in this class, but seldom more perfect blooms. This splendid flower deserves more extended cultivation. Cut flowers were moderately represented, although the specimens shown were tastefully arranged.

Among the stove plants we observed the *Cissus Discolor* from the conservatory of the Hon. D. L. Macpherson, Chesnut Park. As most of our readers will remember a fine illustration of this specimen appeared in THE CANADA FARMER of Dec. 1st, 1865. A small assortment of really well preserved apples and pears was shown. Owing to the peculiarly ungenial weather that has prevailed during the present spring, the vegetable department was necessarily very moderately represented. The exhibition was opened to the public at two o'clock, p.m. Up to seven o'clock the attendance was very poor, but after that hour and up to closing time, ten o'clock, the hall was well filled. The Society deserves more patronage and support than it receives, and we trust its future exhibitions will be more widely appreciated by our citizens. As a move in the right direction we are glad to learn that through the representation of Major Denison, the Board of Agriculture have placed their fine Horticultural library at the services of the members of the Electoral Division Society.

### Hamilton Ram and Sheep-shearing Exhibition.

THIS exhibition of rams and shearing competition took place in the grounds of the Crystal Palace, Hamilton, on the Queen's Birthday. The Clipping was evidently regarded as one of the most prominent of the many entertainments provided for the Hamiltonian holiday-makers, that day. Each man as he carefully divested his animal of the fleece, was surrounded by an ever-changing circle of critics and admirers. Prizes amounting to about \$140 in all, were offered to the best rams of the various breeds, and to the shearers who completed their work in the most workmanlike manner. The number of rams on the ground was very limited. Only about thirty appeared, and those by no means represented the choicer animals of their various breeds in the Province. The Leicesters were very creditable specimens, such as we would not hesitate to use as sires in a flock; while their fleeces were particularly fine, measuring in some instances quite twelve inches.

The officiating judges were Mr. Balkwill, London; Mr. Blanchard, Nelson; and Mr. Minbinnick, Wellington Square. Their awards were as follows:—

CLASS 1.—Best ram of any age or breed, \$12, W. Cleland; 2nd do. \$6, T. Grant; 3rd do., \$3, J. T. Nottle.

CLASS 2.—Best aged Leicester ram, \$8, W. Cleland; 2nd do., \$4, P. Grant; 3rd do., \$2, J. T. Nottle.

Best yearling, \$4, Mr. Orie; 2nd do., \$2, Mr. Hendry.

CLASS 3.—Best aged Cotswold ram, \$8, J. T. Nottle; 2nd do., John Long.

CLASS 4.—Best aged Southdown ram, \$8, J. Heslop. PRIZES FOR SHEARING. Best shearer, \$10, N. Ford; 2nd best, \$6, R. Rowing; 3rd best, \$2, Thomas Cowell; 4th best, \$1, J. Blint.

PRIZES FOR FLEECES.—Best fleece, according to value, \$5, J. T. Nottle; the shearer who made the neatest fleece, \$1, S. Day. The prizes in the Merino class were divided among Messrs. Hind, Young, Ry-mall, and Long.

Generally speaking, the shearing was creditably performed, and the fleece was quickly and neatly removed from the animal without incisions of the skin. In a few instances the reverse was the case, and we saw an unfortunate, yolk, wrinkly merino pretty much gashed. We regard sheep-shearing competitions very favourably, and would like to see them more general. They are of common occurrence among our neighbours across the lines, and we trust in the course of a few years that public trials of "clipping" skill, will become a Canadian institution.

### The Hamilton Horticultural Show.

THIS fine display of vegetables, fruits and flowers was held in the Drill Shed on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, and reflected alike credit on managers and exhibitors. In vegetables, quite a fine assortment was shown. No less than seventeen dishes of fine large new potatoes were entered, while onions, spinach, asparagus, and sea-kale were superb. Perhaps one of the most remarkable features of the vegetable department was a fine specimen of the new

edible-pool radish, *Raphanus Caulatus*. This peculiar specimen of the vegetable world was sent from Edinburgh by R. M. Stark, Esq., to Mr. W. Sanderson, of Hamilton. The plant in question is about three feet in height, and the pods, or eatable portions, grow out from the stalk like long distorted beans. Some of the pods, of which eight were fully formed and seventeen in course of development, were quite thirty-two inches in length.

In the fruit department, a fine assortment of apples, pears, and hot-house grapes was exhibited. The floral department was particularly fine—the principal exhibitors being John Young, Esq., Undermount; and John Brown, Esq., Highfield. Among a large display of floral beauties—the majority of which deserved more than a passing notice—the following specimens were particularly remarkable:—*Brugmansia Alba*; *Cytisus racemosus*; a splendidly flowered *Azalia Cheloni*; and a magnificent specimen of the *Croton Tricolor*. The last named shrub furnishes the chemist with the powerful purgative known as Croton oil. It is a native, we believe, of the East Indies, and the specimen in question was fully eight feet in height. Geraniums were shown in great variety and in fine quality and shape. In fact every class of window, stove, and green-house plants was well represented. The internal arrangements reflected great credit on the managers—and the show, as we have already intimated, was a great success. The band of the 16th Regiment discoursed operatic music in the evening to a large and fashionable attendance; and the indefatigable president, Mr. Murray, and the zealous secretary, Mr. Robb, must have experienced a reward for their services in the general appreciation of their exertions.

### The International Horticultural Exhibition.

OUR recent British fyles contains particulars of the monster tent which is now in course of erection at South Kensington, London, England, for the forthcoming International Exhibition. The surface of the ground to be occupied lies some five or six feet below the level of the surrounding roads. This circumstance has been taken advantage of to obtain a *coup d'œil* of the general effect, and it also places the tent in a naturally secure and sheltered position. "Entering the ground from the Cromwell Road," says the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, "on a level, the visitor will presently find himself on a kind of promontory, where, during the continuance of the Show, he may feast his eyes on the blaze of beauty spread out before him—not all to be seen at once, however, for Mr. Gibson, of Battersea Park, to whom the arrangements have been confided, has cunningly contrived that the view at certain points shall be cut off, mere distant glimpses being here and there obtained of charms almost hidden, but enough to lead him onwards to examine the whole in all its details."

In the absence of plans and sections, the general arrangements are somewhat difficult to comprehend. The following particulars will however be interesting to our Canadian florists. The surface of the ground is altogether irregular; the sloping banks are cut out in terraces, to be clothed with turf, on which the plants will stand; the higher portions of each bank will be occupied by a background of some kind of evergreen; and here and there, in front of the more gaudy coloured plants, relief from the blaze of colour will be afforded by a green turf foreground.

The area to be covered by canvas, which is now in course of being put up, is 3a. 2r. 3sp. Of this large space, 2a. 3r. 29p., or 125,000 superficial feet, are appropriated for the plants and visitors, exclusive of the Orchid tent, which contains about 10,000 feet, and is to be covered with glass and oiled canvas, and to be warmed by Mr. Ormson, of Chelsea, to a minimum temperature of 50°, in order to secure the safety of the valuable plants that will be consigned to it. Of the above 125,000 feet, the walks occupy about 60,000 feet, and thus, allowing 4 square feet for each person, they will accommodate 15,000 persons under the tent without crowding. Mr. Gibson calculates that in the larger and more ornamentally disposed portion of the tent there will be a space of 55,000 feet available for the distribution of plants, and that this will accommodate at least 6000—the Orchids, fruits, and vegetables being elsewhere provided for, and that 20,000 feet will remain to be devoted to decorative effect, and for the disposal of single specimens.