ficent blessings in the form of *evener* distribution of moisture
and *evener* radiation of heat, there is little reason to doubt that
with this almost complete covering of verdure acting as a modi-
fier of extremes in a measure—in the same manner as large bodies
of water—there would prevail more equable climatic conditions
and a more favourable era to the longevity of classes of trees
and fruits more or less susceptible to climatic extremes. So climate
may be considered the regulator and restrictor of varieties and in
all horticultural operations whether our energies and faculties are
applied to the production of, or the trial of a new fruit, it is of
prime importance to know something of its probable inherent
qualities, acquired from climatic situation, and perpetuated by
heredity.   Turning to another phase of the question, we should
not forget that with perhaps slightly changed climatic condi-
tions, brought about by the operations of the agriculturalist,
come greatly altered soil conditions, the extent of whose influence
upon plant growth we are apt to under estimate.   Woody
growth produced by virgin soils is very different in its capacity
to withstand cold, to that produced by soils first depleted of their
natural store of plant food by cultivation and then enriched by
artificial fertillzers ; and so it happens that we find many of the
fruits successfully cultivated by our forefathers, do not succeed in
the same localities at the present time. It would be interesting in
this connection, and in view of the fact that we are indebted to
England for so many horticultural treasures, to trace the influence
of the Roman, Saxon and Norman conquests upon English horti-
culture and the important mission filled by the Roman monks in
the same connection, but I must without further preamble come
nearer home and consider the condition and status of Canadian
fruit growing.

SOURCES OF CANADIAN FRUITS.

Whence came our fruits ?

They came, undoubtedly, with our first colonists ; whether
the peasant of Normandy, the Puritan, the Scotchman, the