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## THE NIAGARA GRAPE

PERHAPS no grape, of British or American origin, was ever introduced with greater flourish than the Niagara, and perhaps none ever sustained a reputation more constantly or gave its introducers greater financial gain. Although the Concord, among the black grapes, stands side by side with this "Queen of White Grapes," in the vineyards and in the markets of Ontario, yet the originator of the Concord, Mr. Ephraim Bull, of Concord, Mass., lacking that magic touch that transmutes to gold, died a poor man; while Messrs. Hoag & Clark, of Lockport N. Y., who introduced the Niagara, made the enterprise a great financial success.

To-day the Niagara is recognized as the leading commercial white grape and has been planted more widely in Ontario vineyards than any variety except the Concord. For dessert purposes it is second rate, and must be well ripened to be even so classed; therefore it should not be planted in the colder sections, unless it be in certain favored localities.

The Niagara originated near Lockport, N. Y., in the year 1868, from seed of the Concord, and the vine bore its first fruit in 1872. The fruit was of such excellence

that Mr. Hoag, with growing confidence in its future, raised a few hundred vines and planted the first Niagara vineyard; at the same time giving a vine each to some prominent fruit growers, on whose reports he could have confidence. Later on he formed a company known as Messrs. Hoag & Clark, and the firm began to propagate the new grape on extended scale, taking great care to prevent the propagation of it by others, in order that they might themselves control the whole stock as long as possible. For many years they succeeded in their plans, and, instead of selling vines outright, they furnished them to planters on condition that the wood should be the property of the firm for a certain number of years, and that the fruit should be shared between the firm and the grower.

In the Canadian Horticulturist for January, 1880, we read as follows: "No plants of the Niagara grape have as yet been offered for sale, but Mr. Hoag is now propagating it extensively, and in due time it will be upon the market. The vine is an unusually strong, vigorous grower, as we had ample opportunity of observing when passing through Mr. Hoag's young vines, while the leaves are large and leathery, well calculated