

variety grown under glass. This line of discovery is being prosecuted with increased ardour in the United States.

We are indebted to the gentlemanly head of the firm of Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, George Ellwanger, Esq., for specimen plants of "the Sharpless strawberry." A brief description of this new plant may be acceptable to at least a number of the members of our Association, who, not being in the trade, are not in the way of hearing of recent novelties in fruits. Size, large to very large, an average specimen measuring one and a half inches in diameter either way. A specimen exhibited at the Nurserymen's Convention, held in Rochester, June 20, 1878, weighed one and a half ounces, and measured seven inches in circumference. The Stump apple and the Red Bietigheimer are new, of rare excellence and high flavour. The Lady Washington grape of J. H. Ricketts, of Newburgh, N. Y., and similar productions of his, may be instanced as examples of what is doing, and what can be done, in the production of first-class fruits. The like may be said of André Desportes and Bonne Du Puits Ansault pears, the latter of which I have fruited. The Hon. Marshall Pinckney Wilder speaks in equally laudatory terms of the Frederick Clapp, a pear of first excellence.

It is true, too true, that often worthless varieties have been presented for the reception of the public. These annual exhibitions soon try their merit, and a season or two, at the utmost, tests their estimation in public opinion, and, as a consequence, their position in the well-considered catalogue of the improving nurseryman. Ill effects have not been invariably the consequence of premature issues. Failure in such cases has only stimulated to greater success in others. Pre-eminent in recording valuable and successful varieties newly introduced stands the firm of Ellwanger & Barry. We may implicitly rely on the catalogue descriptions of fruits presented by these professional men. In few, or no cases, do they issue to the public fruit trees which have not been thoroughly tested in their experimental nurseries. Progress and the benefits resulting from our exhibitions are marked and distinctive. What progress horticulture has made within the last few years! Nothing that industry and skill can accomplish has been left untried, and it is more than likely that, in the light of future exhibitions at our Provincial fairs, the record of horticultural progress will appear more fascinating and romantic than the most advanced horticulturist now present could dream of.

This is particularly shown by the advances made in grape-growing by Mr. Henry Paffard, of Niagara. A strong impression exists on the other side of the Atlantic in regard to our Canadian winters, that their severity is well calculated to stagger the intending emigrant from seeking a home upon our shores. Mr. Paffard can, and has practically demonstrated that we are not living within the Arctic Circle, and that however severe our climate may be, it does not injure vegetation. As a proof of the average mildness of our climate, reference may be made to the experiment of growing and ripening many of the exotic grapes heretofore only cultivated under glass.

Mr. Paffard, on a recent visit which I made to Niagara, showed me in his garden several exotic varieties, and among them a vine of Black Hamburgs, which has been in full bearing for six years, and produces yearly a heavy crop. It may not be generally known that Mr. Paffard secured a bronze medal for these grapes at the Centennial. The bunch weighed 16½ ounces. An esteemed correspondent writes of these grape vines, and says: "The protection in winter consists merely in laying down the vine and covering it with a little garden mould, and the growth is as rapid and vigorous, and the bearing as full as any of the hardier kinds, while the shape, size, colour and flavour of the clusters and fruit will compare favourably with the best specimens produced under glass."

Demonstration of our favourable climate has thus been made, and the continuance of effort and experiment will aid in the work of national development and human refinement until these beneficial triumphs of human genius receive encouragement from all classes of the community.

In the contemplation of this advancement, we have sometimes thought that the objects of our society are rather limited. Nor are we singular in this view. In a communication of a recent date from Geo. Mill, a veteran and accomplished horticulturist of Warwick Township, he asks: "By the way, do you think that we have enough of the right kind of material in Canada to form a botanical society?" Such a society might be well affiliated to our Fruit Growers' Association. It seems to me that the time is not distant when trees, flowers and fruits ought to form the objects of our associational efforts. The needs of the country seem to demand it, and parties interested in all rural matters feel it