

to meet with a measure of success, with such varieties as Delaware, Hartford Prolific, Ontario, Rebecca, Concord, Diana, and a few others.

And as a proof that wine can be made from grapes of Canadian growth, a sample is before you, gentlemen, of the pure juice, without any addition of sugar or alcohol.

When the foregoing was written it was not my intention to have entered into the minute details of grape culture, but, through the solicitations of several gentlemen, both Horticulturists and amateurs, whose opinion I very highly prize, and in view of the great losses and disappointments of the Canadian people, through procuring, in many instances, worthless plants, and also their lack of knowledge of the treatment that the vine requires, I have been induced to enter into such a detailed description of grape culture, as will enable every amateur to prepare his own grape border, and to know what, when, and how to plant, prune, &c. Therefore, let us begin by selecting

The Site.

Wherever the garden is bounded on the north by a tight fence, either of wood, stone, or brick, the south side of this fence would in most cases be the best place for grape vines; if a brick or stone wall be ten or twelve feet high, so much the better. A south-eastern or south western exposure will either of them answer, and will each of them have their advantages, arising partially from their local influences; if, for instance, it is in some elevated section of country, entirely exposed to prevalent cold westerly winds, they would no doubt be injurious to the tender shoots, and to the blossoms in the months of May and June; and they would also considerably retard the bursting of the buds, which, in case of severe frost late in the spring might secure to the owner a crop of grapes, whilst perhaps his neighbour, whose vines had been protected from the cold wind, and had received the genial influence of the early morning sun, would be two weeks earlier, and consequently all cut off by this untimely frost. But, on the other hand, if protected from the westerly wind and through the influence of a considerable body of water, (or any other influence) on the south or south-east, the frost is kept off, the south-easterly exposure would have decidedly the advantage. I am well aware that there is a prevailing notion amongst many intelligent people, that an easterly exposure is more subject to mildew and blight than any other; such may be the fact in some countries, but it is doubtful whether such is the case in the interior of Canada. It is not absolutely necessary that all grapes should be trained against a south wall or fence, for some varieties will succeed and ripen their fruit well on the open trellis. And there are many crescent-shaped openings in the south side of many of our lime stone gravelly ridges, with the horns so projecting as to break both

the easterly and westerly winds; these openings, one would almost suppose, had been designed by nature for our Canadian vineyards.

Preparing the Soil.

When it is considered that the roots of the grape run within two inches of the surface of the ground, the necessity for preparing the ground thoroughly before planting the vines will be evident to every one. In the first place then, let the ground be well drained; if not so naturally, let it be made so artificially; if the subsoil is a light sand or a loose gravel it will need no other drainage, but if otherwise, let a drain be made, either of tile, brick, or of stone, for without thorough drainage it is impossible to get a good flavoured fruit. That some varieties can be made to grow for a time, in a half-drained swamp, and produce enormous growth both of wood and fruit, I shall not deny, but their permanent healthfulness is very doubtful, and the size of the fruit is always at the expense of the flavour. If the portion of ground allotted to grape vines shall of necessity be in a low portion of the garden, it will be advisable to raise the grape border a little above the adjoining ground. Let the border be at least 18 inches deep, if two feet so much the better. One-fourth rotten sod, one-eighth well rotted barn-yard manure, and, if there be no lime in the soil, a little air-slacked lime, and a good sprinkling of bone-dust, mixed well through the border; this, with ordinary soil and a quantity of old bones near the bottom, will make a good grape border; if the soil is naturally inclined to clay, let all the additions have as much sand as possible, and more lime. But of all things avoid stinking dead carcasses. Some people seem to think that the more filth of this kind the better, and that the vine delights to live in something like a slaughter house. Thousands of newly-planted vines are no doubt killed annually by this kind of so-called manure; that there are carnivorous animals in America there is no doubt, but the existence of carnivorous plants is a question. The width of the border should not be less than 10 or 12 feet, but if it is not convenient to prepare it the whole width the first year, the half of it might be left until the next, or even the year follow; if, however, only half of the border is prepared at first, neither plants or flowers should occupy any portion, but the vines should have sole possession.

The right kind of Plants, when and how to Plant them.

There perhaps is more difference of opinion on these points than any other connected with grape culture. Some persons prefer three or four year old strong layers; and others plants started from single eyes, in a propagating house in the winter, regularly repotted so as to receive no check, and then, towards the last of June, finally planted out in the grape border. That the large layer will bear a few