

against it, or exhort their people to stay away but they can and often do provide—unthinkingly perhaps—some trifling social function to keep them away. Is the church fulfilling its mission to man, to the world, in neglecting the cultivation of the outward adornments of regenerated mankind and teaching the value of beauteous and attractive home surroundings?

If there was a little more time devoted by the church to teaching God through nature and a little less given to dogma, creed and the catechism, it would have built up a brighter, broader and better manhood and womanhood in our fair land. Not that I disbelieve in either dogma or creed, but I hold just as firmly to the doctrine that the professed Christian man or woman, who neglects to cultivate the outward surrounding to harmonize with the regenerated moral nature has performed half only of the obligation. And I hold it the duty of the church, in the performance of its full mission, to cultivate in all communities the best side of life by its teachings, its influences, and its examples. Let it continue to preach moral and spiritual regeneration through Christ; let it continue to exhort against the circus and the horse race, but it can well afford to forego some of its trifling social functions to encourage the love of nature among its young people in the cultivation of fruits, flowers and all manner of refining home surroundings.

Where there is a local Horticultural Society every clergyman in the place should be an

active member of that society. If he lack taste, natural inclination, or fail to fully appreciate his whole obligation to the Divine ideal, he should be made an honorary member and prevailed upon by constant solicitations to give his encouragement to nature study; and to stimulate in the hearts of his young people especially, a deeper interest in the charm of attractive home life and a greater love for the cultivation of those things which tend to the social and moral elevation of mankind. As an association of horticulturists we need the co-operation of the churches in our work.

T. H. RACE, *Mitchell*.

### Cardinal Horticultural Society.

SIR,—We had our exhibit on the 15th ult., and I may say it was a success, as it was a very much better display than I had any idea we would be able to get up. We gave the members full swing in getting up their exhibits, i. e., we did not keep them to plants, etc., of their own raising. Next time each exhibitor will have to show their own product. I am afraid our subscription list next year will swell too high for our grant if the people feel about it as they do now. I enclose you a clipping from the local. I may seem a little flowery but I think it expresses the general feelings. The writer of the article is not a member of the society.

E. E. GILBERT, *Sec.*

## CULTURE OF HYDRANGEAS.

To have a fine display of large flower clusters upon the Hydrangea, as soon as the old clusters begin to fade cut them away, taking with them a large part of the branch upon which they are produced. New, vigorous sprouts will then push out from the base of the plant, and these can be left untouched till spring. The plants will drop their leaves in the autumn, and should be kept in a cool but frost-proof place through the winter, watering, however, without interruption, as the plants are injured even in a resting state, if allowed to become dust-dry at the roots. As the buds begin to swell toward spring again, cut back to a few eyes, and encourage the growth of new, vigorous sprouts from the base, each one of which will produce a fine large flower-cluster. To promote a vigorous growth use manure water while the plants are

developing, but when the buds and flowers appear avoid it if you wish flowers of a clear, bright color. Iron filings may be used then to give a bluish color, and bone-dust to brighten the pink color. A six-inch pot will answer for the same plant for several years, if treated in this way.

Hydrangea paniculata when grown outdoors should be vigorously pruned in the spring. Some persons recommend cutting the plant every year almost to the root—apparently cutting the entire top away. For a grand display of bloom this vigorous pruning is worth adopting. The panicles are not so numerous, but are far larger and show finer flowers. For autumn-blooming this is one of our best shrubs. It is alike useful for either garden or cemetery. It likes a rich, moist loam and sunny exposure.—*Park's Mag.*