

cultural productions of the Mississippi Valley amounted in the aggregate to one hundred million dollars, and that this was in itself sufficient apology for such a gathering as was present there that evening. He stated that one of the principal needs of the fruit growers of that valley was some provision for testing in the field embraced within its boundaries the great multitude of new varieties of fruits that were continually being brought out, and new methods of cultivation. He was sure the fruit planters of the west had lost money, sometimes by planting unsuitable varieties, sometimes by unsuitable culture of varieties that would have succeeded had the treatment been adapted to their circumstances. The different climates of the Mississippi Valley called for diversity of treatment, and the planting of different varieties. What may be suitable in one place may be very unsuitable in another part of this great valley. The work of experimental stations undertaken by some of the States is certainly invaluable, but quite insufficient to produce the information needed by the planter. New questions are continually arising to perplex the fruit grower, new difficulties seem to be continually springing up, and new claimants for public favour have need to be tested continually. Hence the necessity for such a gathering as this, where practical fruit growers, giving their individual attention to the subject in hand, impart to each other the information they have gained and thus make the experience of each the common property of all. Alluding to Canada, he said that reciprocity with Canada in this branch of business was earnestly to be desired; that the duties imposed by Canada upon such products going into the Dominion were greatly to the disadvantage of the fruit growers of the Mississippi Valley. He closed his in-

teresting address by appealing to the members to do all in their power to make rural life attractive, and at the same time pecuniarily profitable, and to disabuse the young men of the notion that occupation of any kind in the city is to be preferred to agriculture or fruit growing. He also warned them not to plant one more shrub, tree or vine than they can intelligently care for, saying that already there had been too much "planting in ignorance and reaping in disgust."

On the following morning, the Gulf States Association invited the members to a steamboat excursion upon the Mississippi to the truck farm of Mr. A. W. Roundtree. This farm is upon the west bank of the river in Jefferson county, about thirteen miles from New Orleans, consisting of 175 acres, of which 75 are occupied by orange trees, to the number of 7,000 trees. It is probably the largest truck farm in America, making a specialty of cabbage, cucumber and tomato, during the winter months. The greatest part of the crop is sent to the Chicago market. He is growing this winter some 170,000 heads of cabbage upon a field of about 40 acres, and he yearly grows from eight to nine hundred barrels of cucumbers, and from six to eight hundred boxes of tomatoes. Besides this a considerable amount of strawberries, peaches and grapes are grown for family use, and his apiary produces annually from eight to ten barrels of honey. His tomatoes sometimes sell in the Chicago market at the rate of nine dollars a bushel, coming as they do at the time of great scarcity, when the demand far exceeds the supply.

At the time of the visit of the society the orange trees were just coming into bloom, filling the air with delightful fragrance. The fruit had all been gathered, save that which remained upon a few trees of the bitter orange, not fit for food,