

The Mean temperature of the past month was 19°.9, showing a deficiency of 9°8 as compared with the average. No previous record of this month shows so low an average; for the nearest approximation we must go back 29 years, to 1843, when the temperature of March was 22°.4. The deficiency of temperature on some days was very large, as on 1st, 13.5, below the average; on the 2nd 11°, 4th 21°, 5th 29°, 6th 17°, 15th 14°, 19th 17°, 20th 25°, 21st 19°, below the respective averages, while only on one day the temperature exceeded the average, namely, on the 9th, when it was 1°.7 above the average. The lowest temperature was reached upon the 5th, when from 5 to 7 a. m., the temperature was 11° below zero. A second minimum occurred upon the 20th, upon which day the temperature fell to 4 below zero. The highest temperature occurred upon the 27th, when the thermometer rose to 46°.4. The warmest day was the 27th, with an average of 33.5; the coldest the 5th, 2.0.

Rain fell on 2 days, and amounted to 0.700, being considerably less than half the usual quantity. Snow fell on 11 days, and amounted to 16.3, being 1 inch above the usual fall.

The amount of cloud did not differ from the average of March, and may be divided as 6 clouded days and 25 partially so.

The prevailing winds have been S. W. and N. W., with gales from the E. on the 9th, 10th, 30th and 31st; that on the 30th and 31st being a return of severe wintery weather after the glimpse of spring on the 26th and 27th; it appears to have been generally felt over Canada and part of the United States, and was the most severe storm of the year. Snow and rain from 9 p. m. of the 30th, to 6 p. m. of the 31st, and amounted to 0.50 of an inch; the Barometric depression reached its lowest at 2 p. m. on the 31st, when it read 28.759.

The first robins seen on the 30th.

Farmers make good roads by ditching and grading. It pays two-fold. The adjoining lands are drained, and the roads made passable during the worst portions of the year.

SILVER BEET SEED.—The supply of this seed for gratuitous distribution is exhausted. Applicants who have not received any may conclude either that their letters did come to hand or were too late. C. Dawbarn & Co., of this city, would doubtless supply the seed.

Agriculture does not stand still, and it is well to learn as soon as possible the best ways and means, as time is short, and no man has time to try everything for himself.

SUNDAY ON THE FARM.—There is worldly wisdom as well as religious truth in the declaration of the N. Y. Tribune, "prosperity on a farm depends on a respect for the Sabbath. The oxen need it, the plough horses demand it, the bowed backs and sore arms of the great army of labourers that are over-worked cry out for it." The same paper also utters an earnest protest against Sunday labour required from the men and women in the cheese-factories, as being not only an infringement of the fourth commandment, but needless. It suggests that the two milkings used on that day be sent for butter, or kept over till Monday, or converted into pork, and says: "The pretence that the nature of the cheese business requires this profanation and sacrifice is a pharisaical sham; it is a mockery and an insult to common sense, not less than open disregard for the decalogue."

Horticulture.

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Canadian Floriculture.

It has been often remarked that a taste for flowers is a sure indication of refinement, that the wayfarer, seeking for a home for the night, turns with hopeful anticipations towards the woodbine-covered cottage, or the cabin where gentle fingers have trained the simple morning-glory or the scarlet-runner about the window. A home that is tastefully beautified with flowers is always an attractive object. The building may be the rude log cabin of the early settler, or the humble cottage that can boast neither beauty of design nor elegance of style; but if the surroundings wear an aspect of neatness, and flowers are tastefully planted and thoughtfully cared for, they throw an air of comfort and even of elegance around the home, that betoken in the inmates some degree of refinement and culture.

So the increase in the number of such homes in this Canada of ours will betoken an increase in the culture of its people, in the refinement of their manners, and in the means and capacity of enjoyment. And we are gratified in the belief that the love of flowers is increasing among us, and that their cultivation is extending steadily and rapidly.

Some two years ago we gave our readers some notes of a visit we then paid to the establishment of one of our leading florists, one of the oldest also in the Province. At that time we chronicled with pleasure the number of structures devoted to the cultivation of flowers and flowering plants, and took occasion to congratulate our readers on the evidence which the prosperity of the business gave of a growing taste for the cultivation of flowers among us. We took occasion very recently to pay another visit to the greenhouses of James Fleming, Florist and Seedsman, on Yonge Street, Toronto, and were very much pleased to find that what was then true of Canadian floriculture, was trebly so at the present time.

The greenhouses of two years ago are no longer adequate to the wants of the cultivator and the demands of his customers; but the growth of his business has been such that Mr Fleming has been compelled to erect three new glass structures, each seventy feet long by twelve feet wide, wherein to propagate and prepare for sale the thousands of plants which his patrons require. His buildings are now twelve in number, and so arranged that each plant may have the temperature and care it requires.

The first building is arranged as a show room, where plants in bloom may be seen

without the necessity of going through all the several houses. Connected with this building is an office and room for the making up of bouquets. Here may be seen the many designs of various patterns, as crosses, wreaths, anchors, crowns, harps, &c., &c., upon which the flowers are fastened in damp moss, so as to be kept quite fresh for a considerable length of time. Bouquets of all forms and patterns are here prepared, and sent, carefully packed, to any part of the city or country. This branch of the florist's business has greatly increased within the past few years, and the difficulty now seems to be to keep up a sufficient quantity of flowers to meet the demand. Such, however, is the admirable arrangement of these houses that a succession of bloom is kept up from November to May, so that the very large and increasing demand for bouquets and cut flowers may be fully met.

In the second house we noticed a considerable collection of new and rare plants. Here were the new roses, among them "Bella" and "Peerless," the pretty trailing variegated Linaria, so useful in hanging baskets and vases, the variegated Stevia, the new Verbenas of 1872, and young plants of that startling novelty which has created such a sensation in European circles, the Amaranthus Salicifolius. Besides these were many beautiful ferns and other lovely plant forms, which we have not space to mention.

The third house is devoted to plants in bloom, from which cut flowers are obtained for the fashioning of the various bouquets that find their way to the wedding parties, receptions, &c., in so many of our towns and cities. At the time of our visit it was sweet with the fragrance of the jasmine-scented Rhynchospermum, and gay with the various coloured Bouvardias, Begonias, and Cinerarias.

The fourth house was filled with Primulas, Pelargoniums, Roses, &c., from which, in their several seasons of blooming, are gathered many rare gems of beauty, to grace the brows or adorn the robes of Canada's fair daughters.

In the fifth house are grouped Camellias, Azaleas, Gardenias and Oranges in their most splendid varieties, ravishing the senses with the richness and delicacy of perfume, and exquisite beauty of form and colouring. The Azaleas are just coming into bloom, and a visit to this house during the latter part of March and the beginning of April will be amply rewarded.

The sixth house contains many plants of the Salvia Stevia and Eupatorium, which do such good service in the way of furnishing cut flowers.

The seventh house is given up to the Queen of Flowers. Here the various Teas, Bourbons and Noisettes, flourish in all their loveliness, and one lingers among the opening buds, sniffing the grateful odour of a Mareschal Niel, or admiring the delicate blushes of Souvenir d'un Ami, until he finds himself almost unconsciously drawing comparisons between the lovely tints of the rose