

obstruct the beginnings of agriculture, explain why certain regions have been for thousands of years peopled by husbandmen, while others are still inhabited by nomadic tribes." Strenuous and persevering efforts, though probably not always well directed, were made in prehistoric times—as in our own age—to grow those plants which yielded in greatest abundance and with least outlay of labour (men like to live without working when they can) products that supplied pressing wants. In this way we find that maize, wheat, the sweet potato and tobacco were widely diffused before the historical period. The Chinese Emperor Chenming instituted a ceremony 2700 B.C. at which seed of five useful plants were sown each year, viz., rice, sweet potato, wheat and two kinds of millet. As those species which were cultivated easiest, outstripped their fellows in the race, so in regard to localities, those sections or regions, which offered least resistance to the rude efforts of the early cultivator became agricultural or horticultural centres, from which after the advent of civilization, seeds, plants and *culture* flowed out in diverging lines. With the history of the civilization of the old world is most intimately wrapped up the progress of horticultural development. This is absolutely true when applied to the colonization of the new world.

CLIMATE AS AFFECTING PLANT GROWTH.

Among the factors bearing upon the horticulture of any country it is readily seen that climate exercises the most potent influence in determining the range and character of the fruits it is possible to cultivate, and the fact that our fruit lists have greatly changed during the last half century is no doubt owing as much to modified climatic conditions, as to the difference in methods of propagation and due also possibly to the fact that among fruit growers there has been of late a keener discernment in regard to quality in fruits.

In the early history of the province, when the forest *primaeval* covered our hills and valleys and shed abroad its bene-