

observant traveller like Boucher. The apple represents the pomaceous fruits. The drupaceous or stone fruit are represented by the wild plum (*Prunus Americana*) and the sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus*). Of the bush fruits there are the raspberry, the currant, the gooseberry and the strawberry, and, as Boucher says, "many other small fruits, names unknown to me."

Of the nut fruit Boucher must have seen many varieties. Cartier named one of the islands of the lower St. Lawrence Isle aux Coudres, from the abundance of hazelnuts he saw there. The walnut tree abounded. The butternut was plentiful and widely distributed; so also were the chestnut and the acorn. Further west and later on, La Salle, on his memorable expedition, of 1678-9, from Fort Frontenac to the Mississippi, saw along the banks of the Detroit river, connecting Lakes Erie and Huron, walnut, chestnut and wild plum trees, and oaks festooned with grape vines.

The development of fruit-culture must have been very slow, for in 1749, Kalm, the Swedish traveller, says of La Prairie, opposite Montreal: "There are vegetable and flower gardens, but no fruit trees. . . . For a distance of four miles around the St. Jean, the country presents another aspect. It is all cultivated and there is a continual variety of fields of wheat, pease and oats; we saw no other cereals."

The limitations imposed by climate, however, begin to appear. The citrous fruits, as the orange, the citron, the lemon, the lime and others, we do not grow. The moraceous fruits, as the fig and the mulberry, will not take kindly to our clime. The musaceous fruits, as the banana and the pineapple, we must import, if we want them.

More than a century later the records of the first Agricultural Society¹ established in Canada under the wise and sympathetic control of Lord Dorchester, the Governor-General, show among the entries of the first regular meeting, 1789, the importation of fruit trees from Europe authorized.

While there does not appear to have been much done during the

¹ The Bishop of Nova Scotia, being at the time in Quebec, was made an honorary member on motion of Lord Dorchester. In accepting the honour the Bishop stated that a plan was on foot to establish a similar society in Halifax. On his return to Nova Scotia the project was carried out. The Quebec Society therefore pre-dated the Halifax one by a few months.