

## MR. JAMES FLEMING'S FLORAL NURSERY.

We have several times had the pleasure of strolling through the green-houses which form the flower propagating establishment of Mr. James Fleming, Yonge Street, Toronto, and on each occasion have purposed when we had leisure to take notes, and get up an editorial account of the charmed place. The leisure has never thrust itself upon us as yet,—perhaps never will,—meantime it suits our convenience,—possibly our laziness,—and quiets the uneasiness created by an unfulfilled purpose, to avail ourselves of a description of Mr. Fleming's establishment which recently appeared in the *Globe*, from the pen of its Horticultural editor, Mr. D. W. Beedle:—

Mr. Fleming has eight different houses devoted to the cultivation of flowers; all but one are span-roofed, and average about twenty feet by forty, are heated with about 2,000 feet of hot water pipe, and glazed with heavy glass of the first quality.

The first of these houses is devoted at times to Scarlet Geraniums. Of these beautiful bedding plants there were some sixty varieties, including the celebrated Donald Beaton collection, and four varieties of the beautiful new double geraniums, *Gloire de Nancy*, *Princes Alice*, *Madame Lemoine* and *Ranuncula Flora*.

In the second house were grouped a number of interesting plants, among which were the beautiful variegated-leaved creeping grass *pinnatum variegatum*, so much esteemed for hanging-baskets; the *Smilax*, so much sought for by the ladies as an ornament for the hair or trimming for evening dresses, and the new zonal geranium, "Incomparable," whose flowers are a soft shade of salmon beautifully striped and spotted with white.

In the third house was a miscellaneous collection of plants, which are brought into flower at this season to furnish beautiful bouquets for the winter evening parties.

There were some lovely monthly carnations in bloom, the *Libonia Floribunda*, covered with its profusion of orange and yellow flowers, and quite a collection of *Begonias*, with many other plants in flower; giving to this house a very gay and attractive appearance.

The fourth house is devoted to the large flowered fancy and showy *Pelargoniums*, of which Mr. Fleming has seventy-eight varieties, surely enough to furnish a fine selection to the most fastidious.

The fifth house is devoted chiefly to *Camelias* and *Azaleas*, which will soon be in bloom, being now covered with a profusion of buds.

The sixth house is filled with *Stivias*, *Salvias*, and other plants for winter blooming.

The seventh house contains but little besides roses. Of the *Tea*, *China* and *Bourbon* *Roses*, Mr. Fleming has seventy varieties, among which we noticed the grand tea-scented *Marechal Niel*, with the *Canary* and *Isabella Sprunt*. He has also the new climbing rose, "*Gem of the Prairies*," which combines the climbing habit of the *Prairie Rose* with the colour and scent of the *H. P. Rose*.

In *Hybrid Perpetual* *Roses* he numbers some fifty varieties, comprising such beauties as *Vulcan*, *Prince Camille de Rohan*, *Beauty of Waltham*, and *Madame Charles Crapelet*.

The eighth house is set apart for the cultivation of *verbenas*, of which Mr. Fleming has over fifty sorts, and to which he is continually adding all the new and desirable varieties that are offered.

In addition to these houses we noticed a cold grapeery—a lean-to of eighteen feet in width by eighty-five feet in length—in which the choicest exotic grapes are grown.

There must be an increasing demand for choice plants and flowers in our Province, for already Mr. Fleming has upwards of three thousand plants of the different kinds of *Scarlet Geraniums*, to which before the time for bedding out arrives, he will add many thousand more of *Verbenas* and other bedding out plants, which will be sent out to give a charm to our gardens and make our homes attractive and beautiful."

## HOWICK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the members of this Society, was held in the Village of Wroxeter, County of Huron, on Saturday, the 12th ult., to hear a lecture on Agriculture from Prof. Burkland, Secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture and Arts, for Ontario. The attendance was not so large as was expected, in consequence of the snow storm; notwithstanding, there were present several individuals from the adjoining townships. Hugh Hamilton, Esq., Vice-President of the Society, occupied the chair.

The Professor commenced by pointing out, in a clear and animated manner, the complex character of Agriculture; showed that, as a pursuit, its successful prosecution very much depended on combining a knowledge of practice with science, and illustrated in a familiar manner the application of chemistry, geology, animal and vegetable physiology, to the proper understanding of the nature and properties of soils—in relation to crops, and the breeding, feeding, and management of farm animals. The keeping of land from deteriorating, by avoiding over-cropping, manuring, rotation of crops, and a more thorough cultivation, was next dwelt upon, illustrating the important position which the raising of live stock must occupy in any improved system of Canadian Agriculture. More stock of the better kinds, and less; but more thorough cultivation of grain, and the husbanding of barn-yard manure, were among the most urgent matters requiring the practical recognition of farmers generally. The waste of dung, from unnecessary exposure and neglect, was incalculably great, while starving crops, by their sickly appearance, were often crying loudly for food. The lecturer urged on the members of Agricultural Societies, not to be satisfied with holding an annual show, but to meet periodically, during the winter months, for the purpose of comparing experiences and discussing questions of the most important local interest in relation to their pursuit. He urged the importance of imparting a knowledge