

## GRAPE GROWING IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

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The vine industry, which had no existence in this country twenty years ago, and has now taken such a hold on our brethren of Western Ontario, has only within quite a recent period extended itself so far east as this locality. It was confidently believed for a long time that if many kinds of the apple would not successfully flourish here, it was useless attempting this more tropical production of one of nature's choicest gifts. The fact was either lost sight of, or else not understood, that whilst the peach, the plum, the pear, and the apple grew on trees with stiff stems, the grape was produced on a pliant limber vine, and that this makes all the difference in the cultivation of the one and the other. It is found that the sun heat of the Ottawa valley during the summer months is quite equal, if not superior, to the more western peninsula; and that by securing a southern exposure there is not the slightest difficulty in ripening not only the ordinary hybrid outdoor varieties of grapes, but also some of those native to France, Spain and Italy, and even others which it has hitherto been thought would only ripen with favorable circumstances under glass. One of the secrets of vine growing in localities where seasons are rather short, is the securing of the vine from severe weather during winter, and the keeping of the sap vessels from freezing and thawing during spring by protecting the plants with a few inches of soil before the ground closes up in autumn, which covering should not be removed until the spring is fairly open; the early maturity of the vine-wood, which ripens with its fruits, and the season at which it begins to put forth its leaves in the spring, gives the cultivator every opportunity to treat the vine successfully in these respects.

The vine is one of the most docile of plants—it can be trained and pruned in any direction; it may be grown tied to a stake or spread out like a fan, care being taken that all the main pruning be done in the autumn. No cutting of any kind must be attempted in the spring, before the first leaves are open, with the exception of rubbing off the duplicate buds which burst along the previous year's growth. Summer pinching and pruning may be freely indulged in, and neither too much wood or too heavy a crop should be allowed to remain on the