

periods on Wednesday and Thursday, but it was not until Friday morning when the crowd had abated that he was able to form anything like a judgment of the fruits, flowers and garden vegetables. Let us hope that next year an improvement will be realized in this direction. To attempt even the very shortest description of the many beauties in the Horticultural Department would of itself nearly fill all the space which can be allotted to the whole Exhibition. Only let it be borne in mind that of Fruits there were nearly 500 entries, of Flowers 160, of Garden Vegetables all but 600, say 1,250 altogether, and it will be self-evident that to give any details of such a collection of articles, all of the choicest kinds, would be simply impossible. Fain would our pen dwell upon the superb lilies, the splendid dahlias, the beautiful, pansies, and scores of other dainty and sweet-scented flowers, to say nothing of the magnificent collection of green house plants, rare and beautiful, sent by the Hon. Mr. McPherson, Judge Harrison and others. This assortment alone formed a fine show of itself. Nor must we omit to notice the gorgeous bloom and rich fragrance of the roses, and the beautiful asters and balsams all glittering in their varied colours. In fact one was actually overpowered by the variety of fine flowers, and as we really cannot pretend to discriminate between contending beauties, we shall limit our notice by admiring and praising the collection as a whole and some articles in particular but too numerous to mention. In fruits the exhibition was excellent and varied, though we confess to wishing that a larger sprinkling of amateurs had found a place among the exhibitors—professional gardening is a highly commendable branch of horticulture, but we venture to think that the more amateur gardening is practised, in like manner professional skill will advance and find its increased reward. The fruits generally were of good size and colour, but the want of the sun's genial rays was perceptible enough as regards the flavour, which was deficient in aroma and saccharine matter. It would be too much to say that there was hardly a well-ripened fruit to be found, but it is no more than the truth to assert that fully two-thirds, if not three-fourths, of the fruit exhibited, wanted the ripening influence of the sun's warmth; and but for this drawback, the fruit of 1866 would have been of the highest character. The grapes grown under glass were fine clusters, but lacked colour and flavour, while those grown in the open air, though fine enough as to size, were also very backward as to ripeness. The peaches and nectarines were only "so so," but the plums were very superior and of fine flavour. The pears were very fine and well grown, and

among the numerous parcels we noticed many of the choicest varieties, wanting only a warm sun to develop all their rich flavour. In apples the display was large, remarkably good, and in varied assortment. Hamilton, St. Catharines and Niagara vied with Toronto in this delicious fruit; and we noticed conspicuous among the rivals fine specimens of the far-famed Sweezy pommegris, the Ribston pippin, the Gravenstein, the golden russet and the Fameuse, all meriting the highest praise; while the St. Lawrence, the Northern spy, and other popular kinds, were in great quantity, and of good quality. The melons wanted more sun to develop their richness, and other fruits, if any, came not under observation. But if the fruit suffered in quality through the backward season, the garden vegetables made up what fell short in grapes and peaches; for it will not, indeed cannot, be gainsayed that the vegetables shown at the Exhibition of 1866 have seldom if ever been surpassed, and rarely equalled. Although cauliflowers have not been generally first-rate this season, yet there was exhibited a profusion of very fine specimens, close and white; the cabbages, especially Savoys and Winnestadts, could not be excelled, being larger, crisp, and closely grown; in "horn" carrots the show was also good; parsnips as well as salsify (which so nearly approaches the oyster in flavor), were also very fine, clean grown, and of good size; the celery, red as well as white, proved to be firm, crisp and succulent; of tomatoes the display, though diminished in value by the want of warmth to ripen the fruit, was fine and extensive, comprising almost every known variety in cultivation; the onions, red, yellow and white, it would have been difficult to excel, whether for size or proportions; and the choicer kinds of garden potatoes stood forth conspicuous for their quality, albeit whispers about the rot, in field as well as garden potatoes, went round; but let us hope the symptoms of decay noticed are attributable rather to too much rain than actual disease. We have some difficulty in touching on the debatable question of domestic wines. We know it is insisted that Canada is destined to be the vine-growing region of the world, and that Canadian wine is some day to excel the vintages of sunny France and the Rhine, but we confess to being sceptical on this point, though we are open to conviction; but thus far, however, the domestic wines we have had the courage to taste might have been pure, though we cannot say they were palatable or even comforting. Perhaps by more care in the cultivation, and in a fortunate season—we mean as regards a due amount of sunny influence—the Canadian grape may have its vinous qualities sufficiently