

THE GRAPE.

[A paper read before the Summit County Horticultural Society, by M. Crawford, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio]

There is a pressing need of more light on grape culture for the reason that such knowledge can be turned to good account by nearly all classes. We can not all have an orchard, or even a single fruit tree. Some have not room for a row of currant bushes or a strawberry bed; but who has not room for a grape vine? Its branches may be trained on a building or fence. Its roots will run under the sidewalk, along the foundation, beneath the buildings—anywhere and everywhere—in search of plant food, which, dissolved in water, is carried to the leaves and boiled down, as it were, and converted into grapes. What an opportunity this is for every man and woman to add to the comfort, health and happiness of those dependent on them! Horticulture gives to working men almost the only opportunity of adding to their income outside of working hours, and this branch of it is especially inviting. I once knew of a large vine in a city lot that produced over a hundred dollars' worth of grapes each season for several consecutive years. How much is it worth to have all the grapes one wants for himself, his family and his friends for even three months in the year? And this is within the reach of nearly all, without making any effort to keep them beyond the season. The vine, besides furnishing such delicious fruit, adds greatly to the attractiveness of home. Even the name, "vine-covered cottage" or "vine-clad hills," suggests that which, once possessed, can never be forgotten.

WHERE IT FLOURISHES.

Grapes may be grown in all parts of the United States and Canada, wherever a grape grower can be found; and the more unfavorable the locality, the

better will be his success, for this reason: the greater the difficulties to be overcome, the greater effort is put forth. If he lives far north, he will cover his vines in winter; if too far south, he will grow them on the north side of a hill or building. If his ground be too wet, he will drain it, or grow his vines in a raised border. Michigan, cool and level, the last place one would expect this warm-blooded fruit to flourish, sends hundreds of tons to Chicago and other markets, and sends cuttings to France. Campbell, of Delaware, O., has the meanest place in the country to raise grapes, but he has splendid success, and long may he flourish!

Some parts of the country are so favorable to this industry that success comes almost without an effort, but people are slow to learn that it may be carried on successfully almost anywhere. Dr. Buckley, now travelling in Europe, writes of a noted vineyard where the vines are all planted in baskets and fastened to a bare rock, six or seven hundred feet high.

WHEN TO PLANT.

The vine may be planted after the leaves fall, and at any time before growth commences in the spring. A stronger growth will follow fall planting, provided the vines receive no injury during the winter.

HOW TO PLANT.

If the vines be strong, it is only necessary that their roots be spread in a natural position, and a little deeper than they were before, and that fine, rich soil be brought in close contact with them, and the hole filled up. If weak, single-eye vines be used, greater care must be given. Fine roots that have grown in a mellow bed, and within an inch or two of the surface, should not be covered to a great depth at first. This is true even of asparagus. The roots of a plant must have air or die.