

Mr. A. C. Hill, the efficient Stipendary Magistrate at Clifton, gave me important data, from which I make the following deductions.

Statement of the present expenditure of the ordinary moderate class of tourists, visiting the Falls for the first time, say a visitor with his wife, and making the round of sights :—

Goat Island	- - - - -	\$ .50 each = \$1.00
Cave of the Winds	- - - - -	1.00 " = 2.00
Prospect Park	- - - - -	.50 " = 1.00
Shadow of the Rock	- - - - -	1.00 " = 2.00
Upper Suspension Bridge	- - - - -	.50 " = 1.00
Museum	- - - - -	.50 " = 1.00
Table Rock	- - - - -	1.00 " = 2.00

making \$10 of an outlay of two people for seeing the sights, (without including carriage hire,) for those points which will probably be included in the *proposed Park*. Out of this the driver gets \$4.50 for himself for roping them in, and 25 per cent. additional on all purchases of goods made while he is driving. With the Park established, the same round will cost at the utmost \$2.50, thus effecting a saving of \$7.50 for two people, or \$3.75 each.

Now I have by careful enquiry at the various points satisfied myself that the number of visitors to the Falls this year, including excursionists (now in such favour with the railway companies), will amount to fully 200,000 people. Say 10 per cent. of these, or 20,000, come under the class referred to above, and who would if the Park existed spend \$1.25 for what now costs \$5; this would effect a saving of \$75,000. Of the balance say 100,000 people who spend now \$2.50 will with the Park spend \$1.25, equal to a saving of \$125,000. Then the balance of 80,000, or people who spend now \$1 each, will with the Park spend only 25 cents, saving 75 cents each or equal to \$60,000. Thus we get an aggregate of \$260,000 per annum which will be saved to the public by the Park arrangement.

Then as to revenue. It must be apparent that the construction of the Park, and consequent removal of present abuses will largely increase the number of visitors, and 250,000 would be a safe average for the first five years of Park life. Assume that they only spent \$1.25 each for the entire round of sights, we get a revenue of \$312,500 to meet expense of maintenance and interest.

With these hurried notes, though they contain incontrovertible facts, I must forego occupying further space, hoping that enough has been written to arouse public attention to the utility and wisdom of the movement, and that the best energies of both Governments will be given to its early accomplishment.

The presence of our distinguished Governor-General and his royal consort is most opportune, and it is hoped they will avail themselves of so unique an occasion to associate their names with an event of world-wide interest. Their doing so would be a graceful memento to Canada for her generous and loyal reception.

The only better arrangement that suggests itself, would be the presence of the Queen herself at the christening, thus impressing her illustrious name on Niagara's rock as indelibly as are her virtues in the hearts of the people.

## OUR APPLE CULTURE.

"Comfort me with apples."—*Song of Solomon.*

Since my last communication on the culture of the Vine, and the probability of the Island of Montreal being in the no distant future well covered with fruitful vineyards, it has been suggested that I should write upon the Apple,—a fruit so successfully grown upon this island, and largely exported to England.

Without entering into the vexed question whether Canada is better adapted for agriculture or manufactures, and which of the two branches of industry are more deserving the attention of the people and their respective Governments, Provincial and Federal, there can be no doubt that amongst civilized nations in ancient times the greatest and wisest monarchs both studied and honoured the pursuits of Agriculture and Horticulture. That these professions are most ancient and most honourable we read in the beginning, or *Genesis*, that "The Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it, and to keep it,"—not to behold it only, but to turn and fertilize the barren mould. Of King Solomon, it is written, that "he made cedars to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance," and that he wrote a history of all the plants, from the Cedar of Libanus to the moss (*hyssop*) growing on the wall.

Among the ancient Persians, horticulture was most strictly cultivated, and Xenophon states that Cyrus the younger was accustomed to inform himself whether the private gardens of his subjects were well kept and yielded plenty of fruit; that he rewarded the Governors whose Provinces were the best cultivated, and punished those who did not labour and improve their grounds. Were the Queen of England to follow the example of the Persian Monarch I am afraid that there would be few of our French Canadian farmers who would "scape whipping."

History informs us that the Romans, when they had in some measure made themselves masters of Britain, began to clear the forests and encourage agriculture, and we learn that they were accustomed to convey to their native

country the productions of the conquered nations, and by careful cultivation to make them flourish as well as those indigenous to the climate. In the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth of England, most valuable fruits were introduced into our mother country, and many fruits, plants and vegetables, were brought thither from this continent; and it is authoritatively asserted that since the discoveries of Cabot, Columbus, and Cartier, 2,345 varieties of trees and plants from America have been successfully cultivated in England.

It would be a pleasing study to discover the names of the first introducers and cultivators of each particular fruit introduced into this country.

The late Mr. S. Jones Lyman, who was fond both of floriculture and horticulture, propounded a series of historical and archaeological questions in the *CANADIAN SPECTATOR*, which, I believe, have been very numerous answered; but I do not remember his having put these questions :—Who was the founder of our first Horticultural Society, and who was the first Minister of Agriculture in Canada? What practical benefit has resulted from their labours, and what new industries have been successfully developed by their patronage and support? Has the country been enriched by those who have devoted their talents and industry to the cultivation of fruit? What kind of apple-trees and vines are most congenial to the soil and situation of the island of Montreal? What particular spots are best adapted for particular plants? Who first introduced the apple-tree into Lower Canada? How many varieties of fruit, more particularly apples, are grown on the island of Montreal, and by what general names are they designated? What have our Horticultural Societies done to encourage the obtaining and cultivation of new kinds of apples? From what cause is to be attributed the abandonment of cider-making, as once conducted by Mr. John Penner in the Lower Lachine district?

These questions are not idly put, but with the sincere hope that they will be satisfactorily answered by some of the contributors to the *CANADIAN SPECTATOR*.

Those who visited the last Exhibition of the Montreal Horticultural Society, or have recently seen the apple-orchards, and the apple-trees in the gardens in the vicinity of Montreal, would be justified in calling the island the fair Isle of Avalon. The cultivation of the apple our most valuable fruit, has been observed with great care by Capt. R. T. Raynes, Cote St. Antoine, who has a great variety in his orchards, which at this time are well worthy a visit. To see these apple-trees under the fostering care of Capt. Raynes would make one doubt the testimony of Pliny, that good old naturalist, whose life was spent to the benefit of mankind, and whose death was caused by his perseverance in the research after truth in the wonderful works of Nature; he says: "Of all fruit-trees the apple is the tenderest, and least able to bear heat and cold." He mentions nine-and-twenty kinds of apples as being cultivated in Italy at about the commencement of the Christian era. The grafting of trees was carried to its greatest extent about this time, for Pliny records having seen near Thulise, in the country of the Tiburtines, a tree grafted and laden with all manner of fruits.

The English name of this "alluring" fruit (natural order, Pomaceæ) is evidently from the Saxon word *appel*; from which circumstance it may safely be concluded that the apple was cultivated in the old country under the Saxon government, if not previously by the Romans; but when introduced and wherefrom there is nothing certain. It has, doubtless, an Eastern origin. The prophet Joel, where he declares the destruction of the fruits of the earth by a long drought, mentions the fruits which were in estimation, and among them names the apple-tree. Solomon writes: "As the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons." The tree was probably in the Garden of Eden, but whether the apple (*Pyrus malus*) of our orchards was the same as "the fruit

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought death unto the world, and all our woe,"

I shall not stop to inquire.

The apple was well known to the ancients. Virgil says in his *Pastorals*:

"New cheese and chesnuts are our country fare,  
With mellow apples for your welcome cheer."

When the apple-tree was introduced into Canada I have not been able to ascertain; but since its introduction, it may be affirmed that there ought not to be any difficulty in its growth. The apple may be considered our staple fruit, and in point of real value takes the place of all others, and affords a variety for all seasons of the year for dessert and culinary purposes, as well as a beverage.

In England, the western counties of Hereford, Somerset, and Devon are famous for their apples and their cider, which form an important industry. Cider is always a marketable commodity; it is a wholesome and refreshing beverage, and some of our English physicians state "that such as chiefly drink cider are more healthy and strong, and have better complexions than those who are accustomed to wine and ale. It costs no fuel to make cider, and when well made it brings as high a price as the Frenchman obtains for his wines from the vat; nevertheless, cider making is a neglected industry in Lower Canada.

Gerard, who wrote a "History of Plants" in the latter part of the sixteenth century, was a warm advocate for the cultivation of apples. "Gentlemen that have land and living," says he, "put forward in the name of God; graffe, set, plant, and nourish up trees in every corner of your grounds;