

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

When a traveller has left his home for a season, and has a definite object in view by his journeyings to distant lands—when he imagines that he is nigh its accomplishment, he begins to think of counting the miles that he has traversed, and the multitude of incidents that has contributed to the successful issue of his plan. When one of our merchants has been long and sedulously engaged in the prosecution of an extensive business, he finds it to his advantage to balance accounts—to take a survey of the means employed to foster and extend his prosperous pursuits. So ought it to be with those who, like the members of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, are diligently endeavouring to impress upon their fellow-men the importance of fruit culture. It is our duty, from time to time, and especially at our annual gathering, to catch up the threads of our sayings and doings, and bid them go and accomplish our objects in every county, township and home-
stead of our land.

Associations for commercial purposes seem to understand the importance of keeping past progress and attainment carefully before the public supporters of their respective institutions. An Insurance Society, for instance, recommends its advantages by constant appeals to its past successes, and in every annual statement, contrasts the past with the present. Statistics furnish the grand criteria of such comparisons, and inspire the general public with confidence. To such an extent has this become the case, that rival Institutions place their claim to favour on the amount of business which they have successfully accomplished. This is just as it should be. And if our Association is to take a forward place among the beneficial agencies of our Province, we must endeavour to lay claim to the appellation of benefactors, by presenting a careful exhibit of our good doings.

With us, at present, not having in the past employed systematic effort, it is more difficult than many would at first suppose, to give a *vidimus* of past progress. No general statements have ever yet been made of the rise and progress of fruit-growing among us. Here and there, indeed, enthusiasts have appeared, who have by their influence and example disseminated fruits, and a taste for their cultivation, but no statistics of the amount of acres under cultivation, the best sorts cultivated, have ever yet appeared from the press of our country.

It has occurred to your President that it may not be an altogether unsuitable subject of address on the present occasion, to take up the subject of "the progress of Canadian fruit culture in our Western Province, and the best means for giving it an increased impetus."

My distinguished predecessor in office, Mr. W. H. Mills, in one of his annual addresses, presented a summary historical account of our Society, and in several other of his papers of a philosophical and practical bearing, has greatly exhausted the field of observation on our favourite and interesting cultivation.

There can be little question that our fruit culture owes much to the taste and experience of the United Empire loyalists. These men, who are fast disappearing from among us, live among us still by their works. Their zeal not only brought with them from the States, their cherished political opinions, but also the arts and industrious habits which characterized them on the other side. With a hard struggle for existence for some years in their new locations, they did not neglect the means of securing future comforts and profits.

The late Colonel Land, who settled in Hamilton in 1784, told me years ago, that when he went to Grimsby carrying his wheat on his back to get it ground, he greatly prized a few scions of grafted trees obtained there from older settlers than himself. To prepare for grafting, he sowed the seeds of apples obtained from any quarter, and in due time planted them out as orchard trees, and top grafted them as opportunity presented. Orchards of seeding fruit are not rare in several parts of the country even now. Not to mention orchards, a great proportion of whose fruit trees bear natural fruit even in the neighbourhood of Niagara, there are the remains of large orchards of natural fruit along the shore of Lake Erie, from Simcoe westward.

Francois Baby, Esq., brought up from Montreal, in 1796, the following varieties, which are pretty generally distributed in the south-west: Fameuse, Pomme-grise (two varieties), Red Colville, Roseau, another called Long Roseau, the Borrassa, and one called

the annual
members by
nation.
naries our

dent.
Secretary.

of Ontario,

117 60
350 00

467 60

467 60

1869, as

editors.

318 64
381 00
350 00

1049 64

1049 64