

found their way to some drain. Some think that its roots are in the banks of the Thames, but a short distance away. The roots are supposed to spread over an area of 726 square yards, so that fertilizers spread on the soil within this space have a very beneficial effect on the vine's growth. Water applied within this area also shows its effects very soon. This would seem to indicate that the theory of the roots reaching the river is erroneous, otherwise drought would have no effect. When the vine is in full growth and the symptoms of dryness are shown on the leaves; as soon as water is supplied the symptoms are subdued and the foliage again assumes its natural green, firm and erect habit. The vine has a

glass-house for its own accommodation, the dimensions of which is 2200 square feet, the branches are trained along the top of this for 200 feet and bear in fruitful years 2,500 bunches. The fruit is given to the Queen, who it is said distributes it to the inmates of some charitable institutions. King George III. enjoyed its fruit for half a century. In 1822 the stem was thirteen inches in circumference and branches 114 feet, and in one year produced 2,200 bunches of grapes, each bunch averaging one pound weight. This Hampton Court Black Hamburg Vine has now numerous offspring in many places, for many at the present season secure cuttings and from them develop vines.

A PROMINENT AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST.

MR. P. J. BERCKMANS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MANY of our Canadian readers have long known and honored the name of Marshall P. Wilder, so long President of the American Pomological Society, whose death we chronicled in Vol. X, page 41. We now take pleasure in showing a likeness of his successor, Mr. P. J. Berckmans, who was elected to the office at the meeting last autumn at Boston.

This gentleman is a native of Belgium, where he was born in 1830, and is the son of Dr. L. E. Berckmans, an eminent European pomologist. Coming to the United States in 1850 he became interested in the country, and purchasing land in New Jersey remained there some six years engaged in his favorite pursuit. He then removed to Georgia, purchasing the property now so well

known as "Fruitland," where he devoted himself to horticultural pursuits with greater zeal than ever. It was he who organized the Georgia State Horticultural Society, of which he has ever since been president, and in 1860 he became a member of the American Pomological Society, of which he succeeded Mr. Charles Downing, in 1871, as chairman of the committee on native fruits.

Considering his liberal culture, his extended experience, and his horticultural knowledge, it is probable that no man in the United States is better fitted to fill this position of President of the American Pomological Society than Mr. P. J. Berckmans, of Augusta, Georgia.