

THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

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THIS new claimant for public favor is a white, or rather, green grape, with a slight green bloom. It originated on the banks of the Ottawa some nine years ago, and has produced five crops of fruit. In 1887 it was exhibited for the first time at the United States Pomological Societies' Exhibition at Boston, where it received marked attention from several leading grape cultivators. Some first class offers have been made for the vine, but none have yet been accepted, as it was thought best to have a limited number of plants propagated and tested in the States and Canada.

Although the present position of the vine is not favorable for early ripening, being shaded for several hours by a stone building from the morning sun, it has invariably ripened its bunches under very adverse circumstances every year, when Concords and several of the leading varieties, such as Niagara, Pocklington and many of Rogers' hybrids, have failed to mature. It is confidently expected that when the vine is placed in a favorable position and carefully pruned and attended to, the fruit will ripen shortly after the Champion.

The vine is a vigorous grower; it has a thick, leathery leaf, of the Concord type; The bunches are well formed, sometimes shouldered, compact; berries round and large; bunch rather long; berry not pulpy; seeds separating freely; skin rather thick; fruit melting, juicy, no foxiness in taste or smell perceptible; fruit stalks and tendrils—especially the latter—red to pink in color.

Already many enquiries have been received from leading nurserymen for vines, and good offers for its purchase have been made. It is hoped by the end of 1889 the owners will have some eight hundred or a thousand vines to dispose of, as they have placed it in the hands of an experienced cultivator to propagate. By the end of next year it is hoped a test on a small scale will be made in several localities at wide distances apart, on varied varieties of soil. When this has been done, and if the test proves successful, the entire stock will either be sold out, or a strong company formed for its propagation and sale. The enormous crops the vine has yielded for the past four years is something almost incredible, and would not have been permitted had it been in the hands of an experienced vineyardist; the effort to ripen the fruit has retarded the ripening of the wood. Its northern home will give it an advantage over its more southern brethren: it grew up without care or protection, but for the last few years it has been covered with soil lest some fatality might overtake it, and the life of this magnificent child of nature quenched; it was, therefore, thought best to guard it from every source of danger, especially as the mercury along the Upper Ottawa has several times become solid. The glass in this region sinks below zero on an average from forty to forty-five nights during each winter. The extreme cold appears to have given the plant and foliage their great robustness.