

CALIFORNIA LETTER.

SIR,—The February number of the *CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST* is received, for which, please accept thanks. You must have a very enterprising class of people to have such a large and flourishing Horticultural Association. I judge from your magazine that much interest is shown in flowers, plants and trees in your locality, and wish that other places would follow your good example. It shows a great refinement where the people desire to beautify their homes with Nature's choicest gifts.

It always gives me pleasure to read of such work being done, for I am an ardent flower lover, and can thoroughly

appreciate the pleasure and happiness a community must take who work in harmony to beautify their homes and the town or city in which they live.

I see you give considerable space to cactus, a class of plants in which I take great interest. The more one becomes acquainted with them the more fascinating they become and the greater is the desire to make a collection.

I trust that your society will continue to prosper and, you certainly have my best wishes and congratulations.

THEODOSIA B. SHEPHERD.

Ventura, Cal.

THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY OF MEN.

The gardener is the most extraordinary man in the world because no man has no business upon thyme, is master of the mint, and raises his celery every year. And it is a bad year indeed that does not produce a plum. He meets with more boughs than a minister of state. He makes raking his business more than his diversion, as many fine gentlemen do, but he makes it an advantage both to his health and fortune, which is the case with few others. He indulges in his own pleasures, and though he is plain in his own dress with his bachelor's buttons, yet he encourages his cox combs with princes feathers, greatly admires the pride of London, and with pleasure observes his love lie a bleeding under a weeping willow. His wife, notwithstanding, has as much of lad's love and heart's ease as she can desire and never wishes for weeds. Distempers fatal to others, never hurt him,

for he walks the better for the gravel and thrives most with a consumption. He is nature's assistant and is as famous for his balm of Gilead, female balsams, and genuine drops as an apothecary, and his thrift abounds by his honesty. He is a great antiquary, having in his possession, Adam's needle, the tree of life, Jacob's ladder, Solomon's seal, the holy thorn, Venus' looking glass, the arms of France and crown imperial. He is well acquainted with the globes, and has crossed the line oftener than any mariner in Great Britain. He is the king of spades, and is happy with his queen, has more laurels than Alexander the Great, and more bleeding hearts than your beautiful Queen Mary. He can boast ladyship, but his greatest pride, and this world's envy is that he can have yew whenever he pleases.—*New London Magazine*, Oct. 1785. Furnished by R. CAMERON, NIAGARA FALLS.