

GRAPE CULTIVATION IN BAYFIELD.

BY A. B. BROWNSON.

When I arrived here about ten years past, I had two grape vines given to me, one was the Black Hamburg, the other White Sweet Water. I waited until the season for transplanting, then went in a hurry for them, dug, returned, planted, all in a hurry, but the little rogues did not pattern after my taste, for they were in no hurry to grow nor yet to bear. They took their own time to grow a produce; yet after two or three years they produced a few bunches of half-sized, half-starved and half-ripe fruit, and so went on for two or three years and then mildewed.—I am convinced that all attempts to grow the Foreign Grape in the open air will prove a failure.

I was not discouraged from my sundry disappointments. I had seen the native grape flourish in the States, it is true, where the climate is more genial, and I bought three young plants, viz: the Catawba, Isabella and Clinton. I had them taken up by experienced men, packed with care and brought them home—buried them for a day or two until I could get time to put them out as they ought to be: so I began by digging a hole four feet square, three feet deep, then filled the bottom with stones, bricks and old pieces of dried mortar, broken bottles and a quantity of broken bones and then filled up with a good compost of rotten barn-yard manure, sand and clay. I spent about three hours to each vine, my Catawba never grew, but the Isabella and the Clinton grew rapidly, particularly the Clinton, and we had a few bunches of them last year as late as the middle of January, as fresh and as perfect as if just then taken off the vine. Its long keeping qualities, its hardness and productiveness is a proof to me that it alone is our grape for this northern latitude.—Even in the States in backward seasons, it is the only variety which ripens to perfection. It has proved to be the best wine-making grape. It succeeds well in all dry situations, and is never troubled with mildew or rot. It would pay well to have a plantation of this variety for wine-making purposes, as the wine brings from two to three dollars per gallon for Sacramental purposes. The vine grows rapidly and is easily propagated—striking readily from cuttings,—the shoots slender and wiry, ripening so as to be firm, hence its hardness. It will stand the coldest winter without any protection. The wood is grayish brown, shot jointed leaves, thin and sharply serrated, resembling our wild fox grape; the bunches are small and compact in clusters; the berries small to medium, color black, juicy, with much pulp, rather acid when first gathered, they improve by keeping the same as winter pears will do by house-ripening. It is a prodigious bearer and ripens in any locality three weeks earlier than the Isabella, and a month before the Catawba. I have several other novelties, but have not fruited them yet, so I cannot say what they may turn out to be, but should they prove superior, I will give you a description of them.

THE DIOSCOREA.

Hovey's Magazine says:—"Another year's experience in the culture of the Dioscorea has given us a higher estimate of its value, and it is probable, as we learn how to produce it in greater perfection, it will continue to improve in the estimation of all who undertake to raise it. There appears to be little or no doubt of the superior excellence of the yam, among all who have had a good opportunity to test it; the only doubt seems to be in regard to its profitable culture—whether it can be raised with anything like the ease and certainty of the potato, and yield as average a crop as that vegetable. In this respect more experiments are wanting to arrive at a satisfactory result, and for the present this must remain an open question. If its excellence as a nutritious esculent is fully established, time will settle the question of its profitable culture upon an extensive scale.

"The present year several large and very fine specimens have been produced, weighing from one to two and a half pounds each, a more gratifying result than many doubting persons anticipated. At the United States Agricultural Show at Philadelphia, last year, some very fine specimens were contributed by Messrs. Prince; and this year, at the Fair of the American Institute, N. Y., just closed, the same persons presented tubers of similar quality. At the former show the yams underwent the trial of a committee of gentlemen in regard to their excellence for the table, and the report of that committee was unanimously, we believe, in favour of the dioscorea, as a most delicious and nutritious vegetable, every way worthy