

raised by Mr. Read, and that with him it was as hardy as most of our varieties, and proved also highly productive. Mr. Goldsmith exhibited some very fine samples, well ripened, grown in the open air, without any extra culture. Mr. Kitchen said that with him it was not hardy, but he had obtained his vines from Mr. Hill; he found also that the fruit dropped from the bunch. Mr. Beadle said that he obtained his from Mr. Read, and with him they were hardy and the berries adhered to the stalk. A gentleman from Cayuga stated that he had procured his Ontario grapes of Mr. Read, but had not found them hardy in his neighborhood. Mr. De Courtenay was of opinion that when the wood does not ripen, we may be sure there was something wrong in the method of pruning, and on this depended the ripening of the fruit. It was stated that the Ontario grape had ripened well at Yorkville. Mr. Murray saw the grape at Mr. Read's. It ripened at Hamilton well. This variety was recommended for further trial.

**THE DELAWARE.**—Mr. Goldsmith had found the winter to kill the young vines, though the winter in which they perished was an exceptional season. Mr. Kitchen had planted over a thousand, had found them very hardy, and believed them equally hardy with the Concord. Mr. J. P. Merritt had seen Mr. Kitchen's vineyard, and found the vines very healthy. Judge Stevenson had also found them perfectly hardy. At Cayuga it had proved successful. Mr. Crawford stated that it ripened perfectly at Newmarket; and Mr. Holden, who had grown it near Ottawa, concurred in the good opinion expressed by others respecting this variety. It was recommended for general cultivation.

**CLINTON.**—In reference to this variety Mr. De Courtenay said that the vine was perfectly hardy, and very productive. He believed it would come up to the standard of Europe, namely, ten tons per acre. In France it was the only wine grape recommended for cultivation. The Association recommended this variety for cultivation as a wine grape.

**CONCORD.**—Mr. Murray said this is one of the best table grapes we have, being hardy, productive and ripening about ten days after the Hartford Prolific. He believed it well worth cultivating. Mr. Goldsmith found it hardy, as well as the most prolific and most profitable variety he grew. Others spoke in the same strain, and pronounced it perfectly hardy north of Toronto. It was recommended for general cultivation.

**REBECCA.**—Mr. Goldsmith had found this a delicate variety. Mr. Gray saw some fine specimens in Toronto this year. Recommended for trial.

**DIANA.**—Mr. Murray considered the vine hardy but found the fruit ripen irregularly. Dr. Cross found it late in ripening. Mr. Taylor esteemed it one of the best wine grapes. It was recommended for trial in certain localities.

**CATAWBA.**—Dr. Cross had succeeded in ripening this variety, and had met with the same result nearly every year. The Association considered it too late for general cultivation.

**HARTFORD PROLIFIC.**—Mr. Goldsmith considered this a profitable early grape in limited quantities. He had found, however, that the fruit dropped from the bunch. Others were of the same opinion.

**IONA.**—Mr. Goldsmith thought it would ripen with the Delaware. Mr. Leslie considered that it ripened the wood well. The variety is recommended for trial.

**ISRAELLA.**—Mr. Beadle had fruited this variety, and considered it early and good, though not as early as the Adirondac.

**GREVING.**—Mr. Gray found it ripened its wood well, but had no fruit yet. Dr. Cross said it ripened a week later than Hartford Prolific.

**ADIRONDAC.**—Mr. Beadle considered this the best early grape he had fruited.

**ROGERS' HYBRIDS** were pronounced perfectly hardy.

**ALLEN'S HYBRID** was considered, though a fine and sweet, a delicate variety.

The discussions having been brought to a close, notice was given by Mr. John Gray that at the next annual meeting he would bring forward a resolution to the effect that the annual subscription of members of this Association shall be twenty-five cents, and one dollar entrance fee for new subscribers.

The thanks of the meeting were cordially given to Mr. De Courtenay for his generous hospitality. The meeting then adjourned till January next, the day and place to be notified by the Secretary.

## Marketing Grapes.

The grape may be shipped to distant markets with less liability to damage than any other of the small fruits. There are, however, some exceptions to this statement. Some varieties are quite tender, and more difficult to handle than others. The Concord is one of this sort: its clusters are large and compact, its skin thin and tender, and its berries large and juicy; thus making it perhaps the most difficult of all our native grapes to handle, or to market in good condition. It can, however, be shipped, and some grape-growers do succeed in sending it long distances without material damage. This being one of the most popular market grapes among the fruit-growers, as well as with dealers in general, it is important that the art of marketing it should be generally understood.

This grape, when rightly handled and presented in market, makes the most attractive appearance of any of the small fruits; therefore great care should be taken, in gathering and picking, to preserve the bloom that covers it. The best way that we have tried is, to lay the bunches, when cut, in shallow market baskets, two layers deep, and carry them to the fruit room, where they should be allowed to stand a couple of days to evaporate some of their moisture, and become a little wilted, thus rendering the clusters more flexible and easy to pack. In taking the bunches from the basket, they should be handled chiefly by the stem. With a little patience, a skilful hand will seldom find it necessary to handle a cluster in any other way. The grapes should be cut when dry, but not before they are sufficiently ripe. It is a lamentable practice, that of sending half-ripened fruit to market, as is too often the case, especially with the grape. This fruit, when ripe, is justly esteemed as one of the healthiest known; but when eaten in an unripe state, it may be set down as decidedly unwholesome.

Grapes, like other small fruit, are usually packed and sent to market in boxes of various styles. The best packages, however, for distant markets, are those holding not less than two, nor more than five pounds. Smaller boxes are sometimes used, holding but a single pound. This size we consider unprofitable to both parties, especially so to the buyer, as it compels him to pay as much for a package holding but a pound, as for one holding two or more, and nearly half as much as the grapes are worth. A medium-sized box is undoubtedly the best for such varieties as the Concord, as they are liable, when placed in larger packages, to be crushed by their own weight.

Grape boxes are generally made of paper, which answers the purpose very well. Still, we have met with losses by their use, for if the paper absorbs much moisture from the grapes, it loses its stiffness, and thus the grapes crush each other by their own weight. To avoid this liability, we would recommend the use of wooden boxes; these can be made cheap, and perhaps cheaper than paper ones, and by covering the outside with suitable paper, can be made to look just as presentable. We like round boxes best, as they can be made of lighter material, and be stronger in proportion than square ones, and are more attractive in appearance. The depth of a grape box should be about four inches. The depth, however, may be varied according to the varieties or size of the bunches of the grape.

Grapes may be shipped in either light boxes, cases or crates. They should be as light and cheap as they can be, and have sufficient strength and durability for a single trip to market, as it is not expected that they will be returned when sent long distances. In constructing the cases, care should be had not to get them too large and heavy. A fifty-pound crate is as much as a man will take up and handle with ease; and if it is tumbled about, the jar will not be as violent as in the case of heavier packages.—*The Circular.*

## Owen Sound as a Fruit District.

In communications from correspondents, and in answer to enquiries, statements have repeatedly appeared in this journal regarding the superior fruit-growing capabilities of Owen Sound. Our attention has again been drawn to the subject, and tangible proof presented of the excellent fruit that is grown in that neighborhood. We have received from Mr. John McLean, of Owen Sound, a remarkably fine specimen of peach, a dish of which, we have no hesitation in saying, would have carried off a prize at any horticultural show this season. Mr. McLean thus speaks of the sample sent:—They are the best

sample of seedlings I have seen. The variety is rather late, and the specimens were pulled a little too early. The circumference of the finer fruit measured nine inches, and the tree on which they grew was well loaded, although it had been very poorly cultivated, and grew in a kind of thicket, matted with grass. I have seen larger peaches from this tree than I ever saw in Toronto. There is a larger crop of peaches here this year than ever. All the fruit dealers have bushels for sale, besides all that is hawked around. There is no question of this being a good fruit country, especially on the borders of the lake.

My orchard of apple-trees, which I purchased from Mr. Leslie, of Toronto, two years ago, is thriving splendidly. The young trees will soon surpass my older planted trees; and out of nine hundred and forty-three I have not lost one.

This speaks well for Mr. McLean's careful planting, for the suitability of the soil and climate, and for the excellence of Mr. Leslie's stock. We understand from Mr. Leslie that it is his intention to procure scions of the variety alluded to, in Mr. McLean's letter, and endeavor to propagate it, as, being a native, it may prove harder than some of the other varieties.

## Report on Mr. C. Arnold's Hybrid Grapes and Raspberries.

The committee of the Paris Horticultural Society appointed to inspect and inquire into the merits of Mr. Charles Arnold's hybrid grapes and raspberries beg to report as follows:

Your committee examined Mr. Arnold's hybrid grapes on the vine, and had the best opportunity thereby of determining on their respective merits.

We find the most prominent characteristics of them as a class are, first, perfect hardiness and vigorous growth; second, early ripening both of the fruit and wood, and, as yet, remarkable freedom from disease, with large handsome foliage of a very distinct character and not woolly, bunches large on the average, the berries larger than medium, and of a deep black color, obscured in all of them by a rich bloom; skin thin, and in all the numbers we tested free from pulp and with a full pleasant sprightly flavor; our judgment being based not on a cursory examination, but from having known them for the last two seasons.

The grapes are distinguished by numbers, of which the following is a detailed statement of the numbers on which judgment was passed by us, viz:—

No. 1. Inferior in bunch and berry only to the Black Hamburg. Berry very large, round; color, black, with a fine bloom; flavor very sprightly; skin thin; flesh remarkably solid, but not pulpy; it may be cut like a plum, biting similar to the Hamburg. The bunches are of the largest size and generally shouldered; ripens with Delaware, vines of which grape were growing near it, and with which we compared the same.

No. 2. This is undoubtedly one of the best grapes in the whole collection of Mr. Arnold's hybrid grapes; a very promising grape. Bunch large, shouldered, very compact, berry above medium size, black, with a beautiful bloom; flavor excellent, and very sprightly and pleasant; skin thin, seeds small, very little pulp, if any; seems to burst in the month, all juice; ripens with Concord, with very vigorous growth, and matures its wood very early—a good market grape.

No. 5. A beautiful white grape; bunch fully nine inches long; flavor much resembling the white Chasselas, but more sprightly, and which it much resembles in color, having that green wax-like appearance; skin thin; no pulp; ripens with Delaware; a very handsome table grape.

No. 8. This grape ripens earlier than any kind in this neighborhood; bunch and berry medium; color black; flavor very sweet when perfectly ripe, and rich, full, and aromatic; free from pulp, all juice; seeds small; perfectly hardy, the wood being well matured nearly to the tops in the beginning of September; a very desirable grape.

No. 16. This is the highest flavored grape of the whole, color black, with a fine bloom; bunch and berry above medium, with a very distinct foreign flavor and very aromatic, with a most delightful bouquet; a vigorous grower with peculiar foliage, hardy, and matures its wood well; ripens with Concord, and quite free from pulp.

## RASPBERRIES.

The raspberries, as a class, are distinguished for the following qualities.—very strong, vigorous growth, great productiveness on ordinary soil, good