

With thankfulness, we acknowledge that the ranks of our official membership remains unbroken for another year. There is a name however, which, without doubt, readily occurs to you all, as that of one who has been for years intimately connected with the culture of fruit in America, and who has recently passed to the realms of immortality. The Honorable Marshall Pinkney Wilder, was born at Rudge, N. H., Sept. 22nd, 1798, and died at Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 16th, 1886. He early exhibited a love for agricultural pursuits. He recently said "I cannot remember the time since my sainted mother took me into the garden to help dress and keep it, that I did not love the cultivation of the soil above all other pursuits." At the age of 16 he began seeking qualification for a farmers life, and though his career after he had reached manhood was chiefly connected with mercantile matters, he never lost his interest in the cultivation of the soil. One of his friends recently writing of him says :—"It was for his successful labors in agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, and especially pomology that Col. Wilder was most widely and favorably known." Col. Wilder was looking forward to the meeting of the American Pomological Society at Boston, in the autumn of this year, with much interest. In his last presidential address to that society at its meeting in September, 1885, he says :—"I console myself with the hope that you will accept the invitation of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and come to Boston in 1887, when I may be permitted to lay off the robes of office with which you have so long honored me, unless, ere that time, I shall have been clothed with the robes of immortality, and gone up to gather celestial fruits, which ripen not in earthly climes."

The year which has recently closed will be marked as one in which an impetus was given to the cultivation of our fruits, by the fine show displayed at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. The government of Nova Scotia made special efforts to gather and forward the finest specimens of our fruits in their fresh and preserved states, and thereby testified to the excellency of our country for the production of these valuable sources of comfort and wealth.

The Dominion Government, by sending as Commissioners Professor William Saunders and our own Secretary, to take charge of the fruits forwarded from all parts of the Dominion, and by providing for a collection of fruits, vegetables and field roots for exhibition,