

messengers of cheerfulness and beauty in our homes, and although some of our farmers say (we believe they do it thoughtlessly) that there is no use nor benefit in their cultivation, yet these same manly, horny-handed sons of toil have their inmost feelings touched to the quick when they behold the grave of some dear departed one garlanded with these speechless yet instructive "Messengers of God." It is not much over eighteen months since our good and gracious Queen, as a tribute to departed worth and in token of sympathy with the American people for their grief and loss, placed, or rather caused to be placed, a wreath of the choicest exotics upon the coffin of their murdered President. Such an act of queenly, yet womanly devotion and respect is not to be measured by the sordid standard of dollars and cents.

In writing the above Report we have endeavored to adhere to accuracy as much as lay in our power; where imperfections exist, to faithfully point them out, so that at future exhibitions of our Association, they may be promptly and efficiently remedied, and, whilst giving all due credit to the worth and excellence of the exhibits of some of our members, to stimulate them to increased effort, and that each should adopt as his or her own, what should be the motto of all horticulturists—"excelsior." Our Directors would also suggest the advisableness of having a code of instructions prepared for the guidance of the judges. Having such a code before them their duties would be rendered much less difficult, and they would be enabled to make their awards more justly, and in accordance with real merit. This code should give the main points for consideration in each department, placed in the order of their importance, and having once called the attention of the judges to this simplified criterion, leave them entirely free to arrive at their own conclusions.

Whilst acknowledging, with thankfulness, the receipt of fifty dollars, the amount of Government Grant for the year 1881, which was not forwarded to our Secretary till the 6th of April, 1882, we would with all earnestness urge upon the members of the Council of Agriculture the claims we have upon them for additional Governmental aid. The Hon. Dr. Loring, President of the American