

## The Garden.

### FRUIT GROWING IN TORONTO.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Electoral Division Society was held on Saturday, January 18. From the report we give the following extract, in relation to fruit growing.

"Your directors beg to draw attention to the great advance made in fruit culture, within the past few years, in this section of the country. Until a very recent period, this city was principally supplied with fruit from the United States; and large quantities of apples, pears, grapes, strawberries, &c., &c., were annually imported. This climate has been found so favorable to the production of the above fruits, that the market is now supplied with our own productions; and large sums of money, that used formerly to be sent out of the country, now go to remunerate our own cultivators. For the past two years, large quantities of apples have been shipped from this port for the Montreal Market, and the demand is steadily increasing; and as the superiority of the fruit shipped becomes better known, the demand will continue to increase. Orchardists must, however, exercise care, and grow the best varieties, and have them carefully gathered and packed. The farmers are now—owing to the information diffused through the country by this and kindred societies—beginning to cultivate the best varieties; and those that are disposed to plant, could not do better than visit our fall exhibition, and take note of the kinds usually the most successful in obtaining prizes. Pears are now being extensively cultivated all over the country; and from the splendid specimens produced at our exhibitions, it is evident that our market will ere long be as well supplied with this fruit as it now is with apples. The cultivation of the European grape, under glass, has made great progress in this city and vicinity; and Toronto is now one of the best supplied cities on this continent with hot-house grapes. Nearly all the best varieties can be grown in glass-houses, without fire heat; and the specimens shown at our exhibitions during the two past years, would do credit to any country. Hardy grapes are also being extensively grown around Toronto, and with every prospect of success. The following varieties were ripe here on the 15th September, on vines two years planted, viz., *Delaware*, *Concord*, *Iona*, *Hartford Prolific*, *Rogers' Hybrids*, 4, 15, and 19, and a few others. One vine of the *Hartford Prolific* ripened about 10 lbs. of good sized grapes. Good wine made from open air grapes, is now becoming pretty plentiful; in fact, there is less difficulty in growing grapes than there is in growing currants, and the former will shortly be more plentiful here than the latter. Strawberries, for the past three or four years, have only been imported from the United States in the early part of the season. The general supply is produced here.

"Raspberries are being cultivated in large quantities, and bid fair to become a profitable market crop. They were rather a failure last season, owing to the excessive heat and drought. The favourite varieties are *Franconia*, *Fastolf*, and *Brinckle's Orange*."

A Horticultural Society has been formed in Goderich. Success to it.

An old farmer says that fruit trees should never be trimmed in February, March or April. The time to trim is when they are in blossom.

Advices from the St. Joseph fruit region state that at this season of the year the prospects for a fruit crop were never more flattering than now.

The St. Thomas *Home Journal* instances, as a proof of the exceeding mildness of the winter, a sprig of privet, shown by Mr. Askew, with buds in almost every grade of expansion to full leaf.

The Gravenstein apple is one of the most valuable of the autumn sorts. It is of large size, handsome appearance, and superior quality, and sells for the very highest price in the Montreal market.

Inquiry is often made for a rose that is a constant bloomer. *Mrs. Bosanquet* and *Malmaison* have the reputation of being the most continuous bloomers, but *President* is even better than these—literally blooming all the time.

A writer in the *Cincinnati Gazette* thinks fruit-growers may expect a good fruit year next year. He says that the year next following that of the seventeen year locusts, has heretofore invariably been remarkable for an abundance of fruit.

A correspondent of the *Missouri Republican* adds his testimony to the good effects arising from allowing hogs to ramble and root in orchards. Our own experience leads us to believe that every fruit-grower that has tried the plan will endorse it.

Some one says that where mechanics have land they generally give better cultivation than farmers; they have more grapes, pears, strawberries, and water-melons, and earlier potatoes and cucumbers. They devote more care and labour to the small space, and so reap a larger profit from it.

To keep plants in the winter is always difficult, but to those who have a love for the plants, it is not difficult in case of very cold nights, to have them so fixed on a stand, that the stand can be easily moved, plants and all, back from the window, and so arranged that the whole can be covered with some material that would protect them from frost.

Those who have an abundance of rhubarb roots may have the leaf stalks during the winter with but little trouble. Take up some strong roots and place them in a barrel with a little earth. Cover the barrel and set it in a warm place, and the leaves will soon push. Grown in this way rhubarb is crisp, tender, and well blanched. Roots that have been thus treated are not worth planting out again.