

SOME CANADIAN HORTICULTURISTS.—VIII.

W. H. MILLS, HAMILTON, ONT.

A SKETCH WRITTEN BY HIS DAUGHTER.

THE subject of the present sketch holds a prominent position among Canadian Horticulturists who have made valuable contributions to the science of fruit production and culture in our province; his writings on these and kindred subjects have appeared from time to time through the press, in the United States and Canada, marked by ability and clearness of perception.

The portrait, accompanying this sketch in our present number, is a correct likeness of William Hamilton Mills, who was born in the village of Hamilton, now known as the "Ambitious City," on the fourth day of August, 1822, of Scotch and German parentage, toilers and tillers of the soil, among the hardy pioneers grappling with all the hardships of the earliest settlers, preparing the fields for golden grain and blooming rose. Among scenes like these on his father's farm, his younger days were passed. Hill and dale, field and forest, contributed to his love of nature.

Securing a limited book education under difficulties then prevailing,—happily now removed through an efficient school system—he, however, fitted himself for the study of law under the tuition of Dr. Kay, and having passed preliminary examinations, was by the Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada, admitted a member thereof at the age of nineteen, subsequently pursuing studies

in the law office of Mr. Richard Beasley. Having finished his clerkship under this gentleman he took out certificates and practised for several years, but the old love for the beauties and mysteries of nature remained with him, he abandoned the practice of law and turned his attention to the more congenial study of fruits and flowers, in which he has been engaged for many years in a quiet and unobtrusive way,

To enable himself more effectually to pursue experimentally these studies he purchased three acres of suitable soil, within easy walk of his residence, to which he gave the name of "Pomona," covering this with various fruits and vines, the output of which we hope to be able to lay before our readers in time. In this way he was led to take an active part in establishing our present Fruit Growers' Association, drafting the necessary papers under the Act 31, Vic. chap. 29, in 1868, and in conjunction with his old horticultural friends a meeting was convened at the Court House, Hamilton, on the 15th day of May, 1868. At the request of those present he took his seat as President, *pro tem*, until the general annual election, when again he was elected the first President under the above act, delivering his first address 22nd Sept., 1868, in which he reviewed the labors of the old association, and set forth the duties and responsibilities