

st year, sends 2200
a day only, but this
ten from 30 trees in
was 328, which was
-2nd 154, and after
; was discontinued,
promised well ; but
upon them, and had
here was still half a
ce a day this season,

gest number ever re-
ie 28th of May, but

Evening	98
"	105
"	134
"	108
"	85
"	183
"	71
"	36
"	5
"	33
"	19
"	71
"	47
"	12
"	10
"	10
"	8

time and were not
trees, notwithstand-
ed from Mr. Rae a
were growing about

an increase of the
own garden, I have
market, by parties
been less numerous

London

RESIDENT OF THE

held in Richmond,
uit. We condense
as well in our own
observations of the
ave established the
earlier part of the
ticularly of grapes,
or the formation of
crop, and for this
ty.

We see also the importance of thorough draining of our fruit lands, which produces in soils, not naturally possessing them, the conditions of warmth and dryness, thus rendering the earth in these respects analogous to the condition of the air. Besides this advantage there is secured a thorough aeration of the soil, whereby it is enabled to absorb fertilizing matter from the atmosphere, rain and snow, and from the moisture drawn up from the springs below. Thus, paradoxical as it may seem, the same means which guard against excessive wet serve also to supply moisture in excessive droughts.

Another lesson, most impressively taught, is that the cultivation of our orchards should be shallow, so as not to injure the roots, but to preserve them near the surface; and that manure applied to fruit trees should be either in the form of a top dressing, or as near the surface as is consistent with the composition of the soil and the preservation of its fertilizing elements. Also, it may now be considered as fixed that mulching for dry seasons and soils, whereby the temperature and moisture of the soils are kept uniform, and the fertilizing elements maintained in a soluble state, is of great advantage, inasmuch as these conditions are essential for the production of perfect fruit.

We have also learned that large fruit will sell better than small—that even the Seckel pear, which once commanded in Boston market the highest price, will not now sell, unless of extra size, for any more, if as much, as common varieties of a larger size. Hence, to meet this demand, the fruit must not only have good cultivation, but must be thinned.

The importance of shelter is year by year becoming more generally appreciated. The fact is established that the removal of forests diminishes the quantity of rain, increases the evaporation of moisture, reduces the temperature, and subjects our fruit to greater vicissitudes. We may find varieties, and probably shall, adapted to exposed situations; but at present the large majority of our finer fruits will be benefited by the shelter of belts of forest trees.

The venerable President commends again the important and benevolent work of originating new varieties of fruit, both as a means of improvement and as a substitute for those which have experienced the decline incident to all things of human origin. The acquisitions already made give promise of still richer rewards. Much has already been done, but this branch of science is yet in its infancy. It may require time and patience and care to produce a superior variety, but we have the most cheering assurance of the time when every section of our country shall possess fruits adapted to its own locality. We have learned many of the laws which govern hybridization; and the more we become acquainted with this most interesting art, the more we work with nature in these efforts for her improvement, the more shall we admire this most perfect and beautiful illustration of the great fundamental law, which has been established from the beginning of time, for the improvement of men, animals and plants. Well did Linnæus exclaim, when overwhelmed by the discovery of an unknown principle in this most interesting study, "I have seen God passing by." Let us go on, then, developing the wonderful resources of this art.

He speaks also of the importance and value of this calling in developing the resources of our country, in the occupation of unimproved lands, adorning our homesteads, enhancing the value of real estate, multiplying the blessings and comforts of life, and promoting a great source of national wealth; and refers to the benign influence which this employment has upon the moral and religious instincts of the heart, the refinement of taste and the welfare of society.

Then glancing at the necrology of the year, and briefly alluding to the labours of those associates who have gone to their reward, he concludes his very able address with the expression of his hope that the Society may go on conferring blessings on the country until every hearthstone and fireside shall be gladdened with the golden fruits of summer and autumn, until thanksgiving and the perfume of the orchard shall ascend together like incense from the altar of every family, and the whole world realize, as in the beginning, the blissful fruition of dwelling in the "Garden of the Lord." And when, at last, the chain of friendship which has bound so many of us together in labour and love shall be broken; when the last link shall be sundered, and the fruits of this world shall delight us no more; when the culture, training and sorrows of earth shall culminate in the purity, perfection, and bliss of heaven, may we all sit down together at that feast of immortal fruits,

"Where life fills the wine cup, and love makes it clear.
Where Gilead's balm in its freshness shall flow
O'er the wounds which the pruning knife gave us below."