

## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF CANADIAN HORTICULTURE.

To the Editor of THE HORTICULTURIST.

SIR,—In the year 1852 I entered the employ of Messrs. Bissell & Hooker, proprietors of the Commercial Nurseries at Rochester, N. Y., as Superintendent. I was not 16 years of age when I assumed the position. For some years previous I had worked in the nurseries of John J. Thomas, of Macedon, N. Y. Mr. Thomas was for many years editor of the Country Gentleman.

In the fall of 1853 I first visited Canada, to take charge of a large delivery of trees at Dunville, Cayuga, Paris, Brantford and St. Thomas. Messrs. Bissell & Hooker at that time had a large trade in Canada, from Fort Erie to Southampton. In 1855 I purchased the interest of Mr. Bissell in the commercial nurseries, and with Mr. Henry E. Hooker organized the firm of H. E. Hooker & Co. In this way I became early interested in the growth and progress of fruit culture in Canada.

About 1855 I made the acquaintance of Dr. Beadle, who had given up a large law practice in New York to take charge of his father's nursery at St. Catharines. Few men have been more sincerely devoted to horticulture than Dr. Beadle. He was a frequent and always most welcome visitor at our home in Rochester. In 1861 I went to Oshawa to reside, not long after the Canadian Fruit Growers' Association was organized, and I became a life-member. I well remember the first number of THE HORTICULTURIST. It was a modest monthly, for the field then was small and new. It has steadily and persistently done its full share in enlarging the field, and I rejoice that its

work has been effective from the beginning. It is now what one of my friends calls a "meaty" journal. It is full of practical matter. It aids the fruit grower to attain success from the time he plants the tree until the fruit is marketed. In my family it is always a welcome guest.

In the winter of 1859 I visited Nova Scotia. I sailed from St. John, N. B. to Annapolis, got in a pilot boat in January, and then drove up through the Annapolis Valley to Kentville, Windsor, Amherst, Truro, and on to Halifax. I went to see if there was any considerable demand for fruit trees. The Treaty of Reciprocity was in force, and the potato was king. Fruit growing there was in the infant stage. With free access to the market of the New England States, the Annapolis Valley would be one vast garden for choice fruits and vegetables. Cold storage has almost annihilated distance in the shipment of green fruits. We now get fine fresh-looking strawberries in January, from Florida. They should come in from the Annapolis Valley in July, and command a large price. The intelligent American fruit culturist, with the aid of scientists, cold storage, railways and fast steamships, will have the whole world for a market in the near future, if he will only remember that quality and condition are prime factors in securing a liberal demand for his labor and skill. Prime Patrick Barry and Easter Beurre pears from California, are still to be had at from 6 to 10 cents each. They are well worth the money if one can afford the luxury.

FRANCIS WAYLAND GLEN.

*Brooklyn.*