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An Address Delivered before the
Brooklyn Horticultural Society



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AN
ADDRESS
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
Brooklyn Horticultural Society,
BY THE PRESIDENT,
JOHN W. DEGRAUW, ESQ.
DECEMBER 7TH, 1854 ;
ALSO
THE REPORT
OF THE TREASURER,
W. S. DUNHAM,
WITH THE
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

“ The study of Horticulture under any of its forms is delightful, and cannot fail to yield instruction and entertainment to every one that desires to enquire into its arrangements, or examine into its beauties.

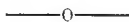
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

BROOKLYN :
J. W. HEIGHWAY, & CO., PRINTERS,
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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.



The Brooklyn Horticultural Society having passed through the ordeal incident to all new enterprises, and closed a successful year, is now become one of the institutions of our city and as such now presents itself to the consideration of the citizens of Brooklyn.

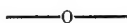
The able address of its President, delivered before the Society at the annual meeting, gives the outline of the transactions of the past year, and a full statement of the objects and purposes of the Society.

Every citizen of Brooklyn should feel an interest in the existence and prosperity of such a Society, and each can contribute his share to its efficiency and growth.

The terms of membership are three dollars, yearly, in advance, with admission for members and their families to the regular Fall and Spring exhibitions, as well as to the monthly exhibitions, which during the last winter attracted great attention, and gave universal satisfaction. It is proposed that addresses on Horticulture shall be delivered before the society during the winter, to which also members will have admission.

DELOS W. BEADLE, Secretary,
Executive Committee.

BROOKLYN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.



The following resolution was offered by John Maxwell, Esq. :

Resolved, that the thanks of the Society be returned to John W. Degrauw, Esq., for his able address delivered before them this evening: and that one thousand copies be printed in pamphlet form for distribution, by the members of the society.

This resolution was seconded by the Corresponding Secretary, Delos W. Beadle, who made some appropriate and eloquent remarks on the objects of the Society and the end they were striving to attain in the future; after which the resolution was unanimously adopted.

MILTON ARROWSMITH,

Recording Secretary.

Brooklyn, December 7th, 1854.

ADDRESS.

—n—

GENTLEMEN :

We have been assembled here this evening for the purpose of electing officers of the Society for the ensuing year. This should certainly be a season of congratulation, for it carries with it the conviction, that we are preparing our energies, and renewing our zeal for its successful promotion in the future. It should also be a source of congratulation that, amid all the melancholy and trying vicissitudes through which we have passed—amongst which has been the cholera, that dreadful scourge of our race, which has thrown its dark shadow over our beautiful city ; and blighted the hopes and happiness of many who were looking to the future with joyous hopes and flattering expectations—still we are here to-night, rejoicing that it has not found a victim in our ranks ; and it should exert our piety and awaken our gratitude to the great dispenser of all our mercies. We have quite recently lost one member by death, and one on board the ill-fated Arctic, which is all since the existence of the Society.—The first I refer to is the much respected name of Mr. Z. GRISWOLD : he had arrived at a time of life—several

years beyond three score and ten—and was for many years engaged as a Merchant in New York. It appears but yesterday that I saw his smiling face within these walls, enjoying his taste for plants and flowers. He then appeared, amid the frost of years, as firm in constitution as in earlier days, and looked like one that might be with us for years to come; but Providence in its wisdom has ordained otherwise. He has passed from earth, and his spirit has fled to that bright land arrayed in eternal beauty, where the flowers he loved will never fade. To his family, in this afflicting dispensation, we tender our deepest sympathy.

On the memorable 27th day of September last, a steam-ship, in all the majesty of Architectural strength and beauty—the pride of our country, and the admiration of the world—was wending her way with more than rapid speed to her destined port. She had swiftly steamed her way over the wide expanse of Ocean; and the observations of the skilled mariner led to the assurance that in three days she would be gliding on the waters of our spacious bay and harbour. On board that ship were many whose hearts were filled with the blissful hope that in the lapse of a short interval of time, the pangs of absence would be more than repaid by a joyous meeting with kindred and friends; but in an hour when hope and expectation were the most animated, they were suddenly overtaken by a most awful and unlooked for calamity, which carried terror and dismay to the hearts of all on board.

Among those on that unfortunate Arctic, was JAMES B. LENORE, a member of this Society. He had been with his family to pay a last visit to the home of his infancy and early associations. Having passed over the hills and valleys of his boyhood, he was on his way returning with his family, to spend his days in the land of his choice and adoption ; but the result showed how futile are the castles that men build, and how uncertain their realization.

The last time that he was seen, was on the deck of that noble ship, as she sank beneath the swelling bosom of the sea. The Ocean surge murmured his funeral requiem ; and he and his family rest in a sepulchre in the caverns of the mighty deep. Here no cypress moans his funeral dirge ; no willow weeps responsive grief, and no gentle flowers bloom over his last resting place. We can lament his melancholy and unexpected fate ; but we cannot recall him from the Ocean's deep abyss. We can rejoice in the science he has adorned with his genius, and which will survive fresh and vigorous, associating with it the remembrance of his worth, integrity of character and untimely destiny.

“ Weep for the death pang of the heart,
Ere being from the bosom part ;
But never be a tear-drop given,
To those that rest in that blue Heaven.”

From the position with which I have been honored

this evening, it appears to have fallen to my lot, as well as to be an appropriate occasion, to make a few remarks as to our present condition and history, and likewise of the science itself. The subject is one that can inspire the most commanding eloquence, and awaken the most deep and absorbing interest, and it would have been far more gratifying to be a hearer than to be heard; for we have those within our city whose eloquence would have created an interest so pervading, and an impulse so spontaneous, that all would have been led to exclaim, "the germ that we have planted shall never die;" we will water and nurture it, until it becomes a huge tree, and its umbrageous branches cover our city. We would renew our teachings to our children in the beauties of horticulture; we would also associate with it the teachings of our most holy religion, and direct their thoughts to him who has bid us look at the lillies of the valley. To him who figured himself under the symbol of a vine, and in his deepest sorrow sought a garden in which to give vent to his anguish and sorrow—and this is a high authority and example to sustain us in the progress of our cause. In the unfinished portrait which I shall present to you, I trust that we shall find some person of oratorical eminence this winter, to do that justice to the subject which I have failed to accomplish.

It is with pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of returning to you my unfeigned acknowledgements for the honor, as well as the confidence you have

manifested, in conferring upon me the distinguished position which I have held during the past year, as your presiding officer. And I find myself, by your suffrage, presented with the renewed assurance of your partiality and regard, in requiring me to resume the same duties for the ensuing year. Please accept my most grateful feelings for this renewed instance of your confidence and respect; and it will be my constant study and care to discharge the duties that devolve upon me, with the utmost fidelity and impartiality.

With these assurances, I enter upon the duties for the approaching year, and feel fully sensible of my want of talent and ability, to enable me to perform them to your satisfaction. Therefore, I must claim your friendly aid and assistance, as well as indulgence, in carrying out the important object for which we are united, and in which we all feel such absorbing interest. It is some years since a HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY was organized in this city, and we have reason to regret that its existence was not of long duration—the circumstances which led to its dissolution we are not familiar with. But we rejoice that the impulses it had awakened for the love of the science, did not expire with it. The energy it has inspired has been constant in beautifying the abodes of the living, and covering with flowers the resting place of the dead. Impelled by the desire to create and extend a more general diffusion of horticultural beauty, a few gentlemen assembled together on the evening of the 27th of January

last, for the purpose of discussing the propriety of organizing a HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY; and I feel gratified in having enjoyed their friendship through the past and flattered with their presence on this occasion.— At this meeting and the one following, arrangements were made which perfected the organization of the present “BROOKLYN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.” In view of this announcement, circulars were disseminated through this city; respectfully soliciting all that felt an interest in the science, to unite with us in carrying out the views therein contained; and it was a source of great pleasure to find that it met with a most enthusiastic response. A most essential and important consideration that presented itself, was to obtain a suitable building for the purpose of holding our exhibitions, as well as for conducting the business of the Society.— The subject was referred to a Select Committee, who, after mature deliberation, reported that they had unanimously arrived at the conclusion, that the Brooklyn Athenæum, from its central locality, as well as the purposes for which it was erected, was the most desirable situation that could be obtained. The Society concurring in these views, application was made to the officers in charge of the building, and arrangements perfectly satisfactory to both parties were made without delay. I should not do justice to myself, or the feelings of the society, were I to omit on this occasion to notice the many obligations we are under to these gentlemen; they have always been ready to most liberally furnish us with all the facilities that the wants

of the Society required ; and we are happy to say that we have had their personal exertion and influence in carrying out our leading designs, both of utility and beauty. In this building, erected for the noble purpose of disseminating the arts and literature, we trust that we have added one more gem to its adornment. And while within its walls the orator was disseminating the most thrilling sentiments, and his eloquence enchanting every heart with its pathos and truth, we were furnishing fresh from the fields of nature, the living symbols and metaphors that adorned his subject.

The two earliest exhibitions were given on the first Thursdays in March and April, and comprised a most beautiful show of hot and green-house plants, as well as a great variety of boquets, most artistically arranged. The chief contributors were—Mr. Humphrey, Gardner to Fisher Howe, Esq.; Mr. Callopy, Gardner to James H. Prentice, Esq.; Mr. Hamblin, Gardner to William C. Langley, Esq.; Mr. James Weir, Florist, Bay Ridge; Mr. George Ingram, Greenwood; also Messrs. Graef, Parks, Pointer, Benton, and J. E. Ranch, Third Avenue. At one of these exhibitions, the Society was gratified with the display of seedling camelias, from the Greenhouse of Noel J. Becar, Esq., and being the productions of an amateur, added largely to their interest; the admiration they excited, was nothing more than a just tribute to their beauty. The Society feel indebted for the marked attention from this gentleman, and the compliment associated with it the reminiscence of the

first HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY established in this city, of which he was its President, and one of its most efficient promoters.

Our spring exhibition was given on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of May. A large and extensive variety of the most rare and valuable plants were on exhibition, the contributors were not only from our city, but from Albany, Philadelphia, New York and other localities. The names of many of the contributors within our borders, were the same as I have previously noticed, and I presume it is not specially necessary to refer to them again, further than to say that these productions reflected great credit on their abilities. There cannot be but few that were present during that occasion, but will recollect the rich and rare specimens exhibited by Mr. Manan, of Albany. His Ericas were of the most splendid growth and beauty, and would compare with those of any other country. His other specimens all partook of the same high character. The world admired Victoria Regia, from the green-house of Caleb Cope, Esq., of Philadelphia, was an object of great attraction and wonder, and it surely received no more attention than it merited.—It displayed one of nature's gigantic productions, and being connected with a great historical design, added largely to its peculiar interest. Without a personal examination of the internal structure of its leaf, it would be difficult to comprehend, how the architectural design of so magnificent a structure as the Crystal Palace, could have been imparted

from so frail a structure as a leaf. We are not only indebted to Mr. Cope, for his kindness on this occasion, but for the continued liberality evinced at our recent exhibition, and he has not only the thanks of the Society but of thousands who feel indebted to him for the opportunity of witnessing one of the greatest plants that has been presented to the curious in their researches into the great work of nature.

The specimens exhibited by J. E. Ranch, contained many rare and exotic plants, among which was the Pitcher Plant, which attracted the attention of every observer, not so much for its beauty, as showing how aptly Providence had provided for the sustenance and support of all its works, in every condition and climate.

The large collections exhibited by James H. Prentice and W. C. Langley, Esqrs., were of the most surpassing beauty, and did much to give a character to the entire exhibition; the Spice Plants, exhibited by Mr Robert Buist, of Philadelphia, excited much attention, and were entirely new to many an observer. The roses from the nursery of Mr. W.A. Burgess, of Glenwood L.I., consisted of several new varieties, and attracted much attention. To all the contributors we feel under many obligations. They have not only promoted the future success of the Society, but they have done much in increasing a taste for horticultural pursuits.

The exhibition closed by a truly eloquent address

delivered by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and his subject was diversified in the treating of the beauty of the science. He remarked that we had spread before us a rich display of Horticultural education, and showed by comparison what these various specimens were in their normal state, and quite elaborately to what perfection they had been brought by skill and culture, and an application showed, that a like array of mental beauty could be produced in the entire intelligent creation by similar appliances. It would be like a very imperfect artist improving a highly finished picture, to attempt a description of all his remarks. The enthusiasm of the audience showed that his sentiments met with a warm response, which undoubtedly will be remembered with pleasure and instruction.

On the 15th and 16th of June the Hall was opened for the Rose Exhibition. It was the original intention of the Society that it should continue but for one day and evening, but from the urgent solicitation of a number of ladies and gentleman it was continued through the day following. This exhibition was much larger and far more extensive in the variety of its display than it was first purposed to be. One of the great objects of the exhibition was to give the growers of roses and herbaceous plants in our city, an opportunity of displaying to the gratification of the many, the gems of beauty that were disseminating their fragrance and presenting their loveliness only for the enjoyment of

the possessor, and it was truly gratifying to see a number of ladies and gentlemen presenting their gifts, nurtured by their own skill and care, evincing their taste and love of floral beauty. It is from these contributions made manifest, that Horticulture need not only be confined to green-houses and conservatories, but can be enjoyed by the possessor of a city residence. In a climate as variable as ours, the difficulty must be very evident of naming a time that will be best suited for an exhibition of the character of the one I am noticing; yet, it is indispensable that a definite time should be fixed, as much preparation is necessary previous to its consumation; and the result may prove to our disappointment, that our calculations were not correct. On this occasion we most conclusively felt the force of that difficulty, but still, when we take into view the large number of plants on exhibition, and the character of them, as well as the large collection of specimen roses and bouquets, it was one in which all should have felt gratified in witnessing. Still, we regret that it was continued over one day, for cut flowers will not appear to advantage for a longer time at this season of the year, and it defeated in part the great object the society had in view, for it was meant to be truly a Rose Festival, and all present to have returned to their homes with a garland of flowers. At this exhibition there was a fine show of hothouse grapes from the grapery of Mr Stetson, of Massachusetts, presented by Mr Joseph Lees; likewise from the grapery of Roswell S. Colt, of Paterson, New Jersey, presented by Messrs.

McIlvan & Orr, of New York ; also from the graperies of Henry A. Kent and William C. Langley, of Gowanus. These were all pronounced by the Judges as superior and well grown specimens.

The Delegates to the Pomological Congress assembled in Boston in September last, made a valuable and interesting report to the Society, from which it appears that much interest pervades in every section of our country, in the promotion of the growth of fruit, and that many new and valuable specimens have been introduced with the most gratifying results. The Exhibition was held in a large tent erected on the Boston Common. The display of fruit was magnificent, and contained the greatest number of varieties ever exhibited in this country or in Europe. Our Delegates express their thanks for the marked attention paid them by the officers of the Pomological Congress, as well as to those who forwarded specimens of fruit to our fall exhibition.

We feel much indebted to William Lawton Esq, of New Rochell, for some fine specimens of his Lawton blackberries ; these were pronounced by judges of fruit to be far in advance of the finest of our ordinary blackberries, and were recommended as worthy the attention of all that would desire this most delicious fruit to abound in their gardens.

The fall exhibition was announced under the most unfavorable circumstances ; the long continued and

extensive drouth had parched the earth, and the usual golden fields of autumn with their abundance, had become barren and desolate, but even amid this sad and afflictive dispensation, it was resolved that the effort should be made to redeem the last pledge given by the society, and the result showed that there really existed no great cause for apprehension. It was true the earth had not produced her usual abundance—that the golden fruit did not present her usual yield—that the bloom of the flowers had not come forth fully for the want of the gentle dew, and fertilising rains; but still there was an abundance, sufficiently promising for our wants, as well as for exhibiting the finest and most luxuriant specimens, both of fruits and flowers, which were useful not merely to interest alone the casual observer of beauty, but also for the higher purpose of comparison and classification. It would be useless at this time to recount or particularise all that this exhibition displayed, but it may be well to remark, that it contained a table over seventy feet long and nine wide, with over five hundred specimens of the offering of Pomona: another large table filled with the most choice varieties of hot house and hardy grapes, some of the clusters weighing over five pounds; hundreds of specimens of roses and daliahs; a large number of the most fanciful arranged bouquets; as well as a great variety of green and hot-house plants, with a large display of vegetables, embracing every variety of the season. The plants, flowers and fruits were so arranged, that not one object only presented the

signs of the beautiful, but all were blended in such perfect harmony, that it combined in its effect the panoramic view of a most splendid and perfect whole. The miniature landscape garden exhibited by Mr Graef, was a most perfect model of the kind, and displayed great taste in its architectural arrangements, as well as great elegance of design.

Amid such a scene, who could view the beautiful productions before them without the eye being charmed, the smell greeted with fragrance, and the imagination enriched with the feast. Here stoic apathy must awaken from its cold indifference, and infidelity be lost in the majestic contemplation of a God supreme :

Nature's great parent ! whose unceasing hand
Rolls round the seasons of the changeful years,
How mighty, how majestic are thy works ;
With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul.

If my limits would admit, I should feel pleased to notice all the contributors to this exhibition ; but their names will be found as contributors to our previous exhibition, with the exception of James Dundas, Esq., of Philadelphia, to whom we were indebted for some fine specimens of foreign ferns, as well as a very friendly communication to the corresponding secretary, expressing his most ardent wishes for the success of the Society. We are also under many obligations to A. P.

Cummings, Esq., of Williamsburgh, for a large variety of plants at this as well as at the spring exhibition. The principal contributors of fruits were William E. French, of Boston; Messrs. Hovey & Co., Cambridge; N. Stetson, Bridgewater; B. V. French, Braintree, Mass.; Messrs. Bun, of Bingham; Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y.; Mr. Graham, Philadelphia; R. M. Blackwell and R. Morrison, Astoria; Judge King, Henry A. Kent, W. C. Langley, and J. H. Prentice, all of Brooklyn; also Jacob Williams, Seiring Town, Long Island, who presented a basket of rare and valuable Pears. To these gentlemen, as well as the contributors generally, the Society feel under many obligations, and hold in high appreciation their valuable aid on this as well as on other occasions.

It is no compliment to say that we feel much indebted for the able and efficient services of our Treasurer W. S. Dunham, as well as to our corresponding Secretary Delos W. Beadle, to which all present will be happy to respond. It has been a circumstance of deep regret, that our late Recording Secretary, Milton Arrowsmith, could not have been induced to remain with us. We are all aware that his duties have been arduous, and most ably accomplished, and in his retirement he carries with him the assurance of our most friendly feelings, and our earnest desires for his future welfare and happiness.

To R. R. Scott, of Philadelphia, we feel under many

obligations for his prompt attention in forwarding the different specimens from that place, as well as for his personal attention at our exhibitions.

We certainly have reason to rejoice at the success which has attended our effort thus far. It has been more than our most sanguine expectations could have realized. In the course of a few brief months, we have reached the large and respectable number of over four hundred and fifty members. It will be seen from the report of the Treasurer, that notwithstanding our expenses have been necessarily much larger than they will be during the approaching year, that all claims on the Society have been met with the utmost promptitude; and may we not, in the mirror of the past, see the precursor of a much brighter future. After years of the most unexampled prosperity and success, dark shadows have cast their gloom over our commercial horizon, and dilapidated fortunes and blighted expectations follow in the train of consequences. These are events that during such times are inevitable, but they are not matters of utter despondency. It never was intended that man should become a mathematical machine, and all his enjoyments arise from a heavy balance sheet. More elevated objects and pursuits have been provided for him by his beneficent Creator, and they are the architect of his own hand and munificence. We have thrown open the portals into which all may enter, and learn wisdom from Nature's great design. It is a bank that is coequal in date with the

hills and vallies, and has never been bankrupt, or its currency been doubted, as seed time and harvest have fully proved. We ask all to enter, it will afford far more pleasure than is to be found in many baseless fabrics that do not leave a wreck behind. We desire all to be enrolled on our Society's books, and to partake of all the advantages that are spread before them, even your children will feel its influence, and their minds become elevated by its teachings. The rough winds of heaven will soon destroy the marble tablet and towering dome, and its records be effaced forever. Let us endeavor to leave behind a more enduring memorial, the warm affections of our children, and a love for the beautiful; then, on each opening spring and summer, our graves will be covered with beautiful flowers, and watered with affection's tears.

Permit me to urge you to renewed energy and exertion, in procuring means to purchase a suitable place for a HORTICULTURAL GARDEN within our city borders.—The time has arrived when this most desired object should have its accomplishment. Cities of far less note than ours, and enjoying but few of its advantages, are far in advance of us. We have within us all the elements that we could desire to secure success. Our woodlands and fields abound with every variety of native plants, and they only require the genius of the cultivator, and the liberal patronage of our wealthy and influential citizens, to be presented in suitable grounds, to the gratification of the entire community,

without reference to station or condition in life, distinguished strangers in search of science, should not consider our city a village plot to our overgrown neighbor. This proposed garden, filled with indigenous as well as exotic plants, would be a garden to which the city of palaces would become tributary, and would be sought as one of the most valuable of our city adornments. Let us then appreciate the advantages we possess. It is our bald eagle in sight of Niagara's sublimity—soars beyond the flight of her companions.—It would be supposed, in the attainment of so desirable an object, all would be ready to take a part. With many, the question would arise—how can it be accomplished? there is no difficulty in the way, if a proper interest can be awakened; and could three hundred persons be induced to become life members of our Society, by paying \$50 each, the work would soon be in the way of speedy accomplishment. Undertakings of this kind always require energy and perseverance.—One of the most enduring public works of this State, and which has added to its character, wealth, renown, and glory, had it not been for a few men of indomitable force and energy, would at this day been without an existence. Let us make a most strenuous effort, and it will be crowned with success.

Perhaps there cannot be a more interesting season than the present, for the contemplation of the science, which we are united to cherish. The season of fruit and flowers have passed away, the fields are disrobed

of their green vestments, and the landscape that filled the eye with beauty, presents a barren and leafless waste ; nature has done its work, and the reward for the toil of the husbandman has been gathered into the garner for the support of all God's creation. From the past, our intelligence becomes enlarged to develop a brighter and more hopeful future ; new discoveries have been made by chemical appliances, for fertilising the soil, and new inventions in mechanics, have tended to lighten the burdens, and labor of the agriculturist ; and horticulture has presented its claims in the great work of progression ; new specimens of plants and flowers have added their beauty to the already brilliant galaxy, that are so grateful to our senses, and so necessary for our happiness ; still with all their array, and most endless varieties, our productions are but in their infancy ; a wild and uncultivated waste is still before us, and it remains for our science to beautify and adorn, and every new specimen that is discovered by the genius of the cultivator, tends to lessen the work to be accomplished ; and we rejoice that an enlarged taste is pervading through all classes of society, to produce a more perfect, and truthful field of beauty ; new societies are constantly organising, and new elements are uniting, in making great, and untried discoveries. The extremes of north and south, have lost their measured distance, by the invincible speed produced by motive power, and already the genius of the sunny south is in communion with the more rugged north. In the great work of development and pro-

gress, the rich fragrance of the magnolia may not shed its perfume around us in our more northern aspect; or our fields of golden fruit, cheer the more genial south; but notwithstanding the difference of production, produced by difference of climate, they only tend to make an interchange of views more interesting, and add to the enlargement of science, and all that is required for its continued encouragement, is the fostering hand of a liberal and discerning community. It cannot be expected that a work of such magnitude can be accomplished single handed. The gardner cannot devote his genius for months in propagating a new specimen, without some remuneration, worthy of his time and labor; his pecuniary means are seldom adequate for the task; and through necessity, as well as the claims of justice, he asks for his reward, if he does not receive it, the germ that would have made a noble plant, is suffered to perish, and the arm that could have brought it to perfection, falls palsied at his side; therefore it remains with us to encourage the perfection of genius; and one of the methods by which it can be accomplished is by the dispensing of liberal awards.

At the present time every branch of science is receiving the most generous support, and why should not ours, that dates from the bright morning of creation, and whose charter was sealed in the Garden of Eden. The grower of every new specimen is no common man, he is a benefactor, and has given increased

evidence of the great works of nature, and their enduring beauty. In this age of progress, when science and learning are its daily companions, we have a right to seek for the accomplishment of what we so much desire, and all should be engaged in throwing into the future, a higher and more exalted destiny. In producing this most desired result, we trust that we have added our feeble effort in its promotion. Our periodical exhibitions have certainly been eminently successful; amid these public displays have been offered a large variety of nature's brightest gems, and collected from localities far remote from each other, and they have been the offering of the amateur, as well as those engaged in public green houses and conservatories; and if it were not for this mode of congregating them together, the progress of science would be slow in its advancement, and many would remain unacquainted with many of the varieties with which the vegetable kingdom abounds. At our exhibitions we are often greeted with the enthusiastic exclamation, "how truly beautiful," and perhaps this was nothing more than a deserving commendation of the object which excited their pleasure; the contributor no doubt felt gratified with the laudatory approval, but still the interest with him was far beyond the momentary effect; it was buried deep in the causes that had brought it to its present state of perfection. There is a two-fold object to be acquired by exhibitions, the one is immediate, and founded on our admiration; the other is more remote, and its tendency is to produce

an increased degree of taste and refinement, and a more ardent desire to become familiar with the great and pervading influences that are so closely allied with the subject. It would not be considered a flattering encomium to any HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, that they were merely exhibitors. The display is only intended to sow the seed which is calculated to produce an enduring love of the science, and to show in what perfection nature can appear by the gifted hand of the cultivator. There is nothing in creation but has its design and use, and is bestowed for some valuable purpose, and yet it may not create our admiration or fill the eye with its beauty, and from these causes it may never have met with a proper appreciation. The rock whose base is in the deep, and whose summit reaches to the clouds, may present to the mind of the observer, as he casts his eye on its rugged peak, or the angry surge that dashes around its fretted base far more of the terrific than the beautiful, and yet it is the most potential subject he can discover to illuminate his mind with a proper conception of the sublime, and the grandeur and magnificence of creation. It is often a source of regret, that by familiarity with that which is constantly before us, it loses not only the charm of curiosity, but frequently its moral as well as its natural sublimity. We may daily pass the deserted highway, and amid its rustic hedges, not notice the beautiful wild flowers that cluster in our pathway, and forget that they are watered by the same hand that gives life and vigor to the huge oak. As well as that,

these humble and lowly blossoms are nurtured and protected by the finger of heaven for the happiness and enjoyment of the entire creation. Our conceptions are frequently quite limited, and do not enter into the full history of what our science presents, and without a due regard to a more general knowledge, our enlightenment will be very superficial. There are many plants that it is their peculiar history that contain and furnish the most attractive interest. We admire the pitcher plant, not so much for its beauty, but for the wisdom of its architectural design. The further we trace its history, the more our curiosity is awakened by its novelty. We see the pitchers, and they appear rather out of place as they hang suspended from the boughs, but as we trace and become interested in its history, we find that it is the native of a climate passing through changes of extreme humidity to extreme drouth, and that the receptacles become filled during one season to sustain it during another. With the increased intelligence, we become more deeply interested in our research, and our thoughts become not only fixed on the plant, but are led forward to the contemplation of a much higher source—Nature's great author and his governing laws. Many will recollect the magnificent heliotrope exhibited at our fall exhibition. It stood three feet high, its head presenting one beautiful mass of flowers and perfume. As well as the manner in which it was so happily referred to by the Rev. Dr. Farley, as well as many other most beautiful allusions, which the speci-

mens that surrounded him inspired. He observed in this helitrope, as far as the variety, it certainly presented nothing new, for they abound in every garden and greenhouse in our city, where their growth exhibited generally a small and spindle plant, while the specimen before us presented a stock that showed its growth in the appearance of a tree, and this was all the accomplishment of skill and science; and in his illustrations showed that by the same appliances the entire department of horticulture could be brought to the same high state of improvement and beauty.

It would be a difficult task to find a person that does not love flowers; the very acknowledgement would show a distaste for everything that is lovely; as well as great want of refinement. Our manufacturers look to nature and its floral beauty for patterns to beautify their varied productions; they associate and blend their influences through every department of life; their fragrance is dispensed amid the gaudy attired palace; as well as the humble and rustic cottage. They are the companions of the rich, the learned, and the eloquent, as well as the humble, the illiterate, and the poor; they are symbols, administering consolation to the sorrowing, furnishing delight to the joyful and happy heart; they point out the abode of taste and refinement, and the home of peace. A distinguished clergyman, traveling in the western part of our far extended country, in the performance of his ministerial duties, related, that when the time for seeking an asy-

lum for the night was approaching; he began to look around for a house, with a neat door-yard, and showing a display of flowers. When he found that spot, he alighted for the night, and was always sure to meet a cordial reception, with all the comforts of a quiet and peaceful home. There is something so touching in this truthful representation, that I could not forbear the pleasure of alluding to it, and must ask your indulgence to relate another incident. A few months since, I called with a friend on a much respected minister of the gospel in this city, our attention was directed with considerable interest to a picture that hung suspended on the wall; the design was a basket of flowers, made from a collection of dried varieties; this we were informed, was the artistical arrangement of an anonymous young lady; the melancholy circumstance it intended to symbolize, was the death of two interesting and beautiful children; two buds had fallen from the basket, and in their descent they carried with them the sad conviction that this was the abode of sorrow; and as a father's eye rested on these truthful flowers, I could see the emotions of a deeply afflicted heart. This small tribute, the workmanship of female genius and refinement, was a gift of the beautiful—a priceless gem; it clustered around it the associations of the past, and presented a memorial of the purest friendship and sympathy; even these dried leaves that have long since departed their fragrance, are silent monitors; but they convey language that gives joy in sadness, and direct our thoughts from earth to the purity and beauty of that brighter world.

In a most classical and learned anniversary discourse, delivered before the New York Horticultural Society in 1828, I find the following elegant and remarkably prophetic language: "Could I move the authorities of our city in the cause which I espouse, our public squares and parks should become pleasure grounds, disposed and decorated to regale our citizens. Within their walks should be no fumes of the intoxicating deity, but the pervading pure and salutary influence of Nature's God; and in the suburbs of our metropolis should be a cemetery where the ashes of the departed might repose in peace, where children might be literally gathered to their fathers, and where rural beds and summer flowers, and the seared leaves of autumn might teach lessons of morality, and speak of the resurrection and life to come." How truly its verification has taken place, in part, in our own city, (but without the aid of city authority.) Greenwood, our pride and ornament, stands unequalled for the purposes it was designed, abounding in rural beauty of the most picturesque character.

"From the proud woods whose heads the sky assail,
To the low violet that loves the dale."

And we trust that the time may soon arrive when our Parks, that are laying, uncultivated wastes, may be adorned and beautified to promote the health and happiness of our largely increasing population. Vast assessments have been collected for these improvements,

and, notwithstanding they do not abound with trees, or even the green grass rest on their bosom, they teem with the reminiscences of revolutionary history, all of which must be forgotten by our City Fathers, except when an appropriation is asked for a trifle of powder for the Fourth of July celebration. We have reason to feel a deep interest in the science of Horticulture, it has occupied the attention of the most intelligent and learned in every age, and in our own times we have had a Hosack, Mitchell, Floy, Bridgeman, Parmenter, Downing, Hogg, and Lanore :—they have all passed away, but their works will ever remain “green” with us.

“Our course is not only noble but benevolent; it exerts a salutary, intellectual, and moral influence. It has rich resources in the future, while it instructs and edifies, ennobles and exalts; it awakens feelings of philanthropy; its motto is “good will to man.” It inscribes above its portal what was written at the entrance of that memorable garden into which the very Patriarch of Botany allured his followers, “Enter, for God is here.”

LIST OF OFFICERS.

The following is the List of Officers of the Society for 1855.

President—John W. Degrauw.

Vice Presidents—John Maxwell, Stephen Knowlton, Henry A. Kent, Smith J. Eastman, John W. Towt.

Treasurer—W. S. Dunham.

Corresponding Secretary—Delos W. Beadle.

Recording Secretary—Joseph Lees.

Executive Committee—M. L. Schaefer, Ira Smith, H. A. Graef.

Finance Committee—Joseph H. Lester, John A. Nexsen, A. J. S. Degrauw.

Library Committee—M. Arrowsmith, John Maxwell, H. A. Graef.

Premium Committee—John W. Towt, George Ingram.

Committee on Fruits—J. E. Ranch, James Weir, William Poynter.

Committee on Plants and Flowers—George Gamgee, Joseph Lees, M. Brandigee.

Committee on Vegetables—George Hamlyn, D. W. Beadle, W. Park.

Dr. Dr.

The Brooklyn Agricultural Society in account with W. S. Dunham,

Treasurer.

<p>1854, To Cash Paid for Furniture for Office and Exhibition Rooms;</p> <p>“ Do. Stationery,</p> <p>“ Do. Advertising and Printing,</p> <p>“ Do. Stationery Contingent Expenses,</p> <p>“ Do. Premiums,</p> <p>“ Do. Postage,</p> <p>“ Do. Rent,</p> <p>“ Do. Balance in Treasurers Hands,</p>	<p>\$378 34</p> <p>101 29</p> <p>269 94</p> <p>510 69</p> <p>502 00</p> <p>37 02</p> <p>810 00</p> <p>75 44</p> <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/> <p>\$2,184 72</p>
<p>1854, By Cash received for Members Tickets,</p> <p>“ Do. For Exhibition Tickets,</p> <p>“ Do. From other Sources,</p>	<p>\$1,806 00</p> <p>770 72</p> <p>108 00</p> <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/> <p>\$2,184 72</p>

W. S. DUNHAM, TREASURER.

Brooklyn, December 31st, 1854.

We have examined the above account and find it correct,

December 31st, 1854.

THOS. H. LESTER, } Finance
 J. E. RANCH, } Committee.

