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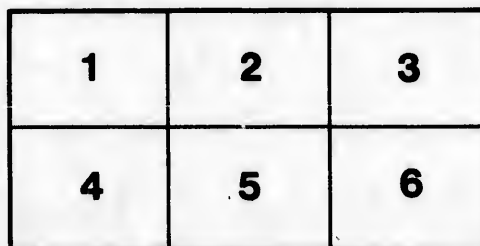
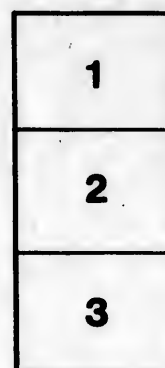
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PROCEEDINGS
CONNECTED WITH THE FORMATION
OF
THE MONTREAL
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY;
AND ITS
CONSTITUTION.



MONTREAL,
PRINTED BY J. STARKE & COMPANY.

1847.

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INTRODUCTION.

MANY attempts having hitherto been made to form a Society for the advancement of Horticulture, in and about the City of Montreal, all of which proved fruitless, chiefly because of the discordant elements which constituted society ; at length, however, after a long lapse of inattention to the subject, and stimulated by a knowledge of the existence and beneficial results of Horticultural Societies in some of the sister Cities in these Provinces, the idea of renewing the effort to form an Horticulture Society suggested itself to a few individuals of this community, who felt deeply sensible that so large a City as Montreal, surrounded by a dense population required more spirit and energy in this department, and the introduction of some improved methods in cultivating the soil and improving the vegetable kingdom ; they, therefore, determined upon an attempt to form an Horticultural Society, which, after several preparatory meetings and proceedings, resulted in a public general meeting being called, at which the proceedings of the preparatory meetings were adopted, and the Montreal Horticultural Society formed, as will appear in the following pages.

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THE MONTREAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY EVENING, *March 16th*, 1847.

For furtherance of the objects and interests of the Montreal Horticultural Society, a Public General Meeting was this day held, (according to public notice, duly given) at the Odd Fellows' Hall, to receive from a sub-committee, appointed for that purpose at a previous meeting, the draft of a constitution for the Society; to elect such additional officers as might be necessary; to name certain requisite Committees, and for such other purposes as might be considered of advantage to the Society.

Present on the Platform :—

His Honor, Judge Day, President, in the chair; The Revd. Messire Villeneuve and William Lunn, Esq., Vice-Presidents; Mr. Justice Badgley; John Boston, Esq., Sheriff; His Honor, John E. Mills, Esq., Mayor; S. Jones Lyman, Esq., Corresponding Secretary; and the Honorable A. N. Morin.

The President explained the general object of the meeting, and then proceeded as follows :—

“In entering upon the consideration of any new undertaking, the first impulse of the mind is to enquire whether it promises to ourselves, or to the community in which we live, any advantages of such a character and degree as to entitle it to our countenance and support.

“With respect to most of the schemes which engage the attention of mankind, their attractions are to be found in the addition which they are expected to make to our fortune, or in the gratification they hold out to the strong passions which govern our race. The love of power, of fame—of the exciting pleasures of society;—or of mere sensual indulgence. But there is another class of pursuits, the advantages of which are less obvious, and address themselves not so much to these carser propensities, as to the subtler impulses of the soul—that sense of beauty, that perception of excellence in art and nature, which the Almighty hand has so deeply implanted in the human heart.

“I propose rapidly, and I fear I must add, very imperfectly, to pass in review some of the motives which may justify the effort we are

making; and may, perhaps, place the object and tendencies of our infant society upon a more elevated footing than they have hitherto occupied in most minds. It is not upon Horticulture as increasing the delicacies of the table, nor as furnishing to the opulent amateur the honest gratification of displaying his treasures of fruits and flowers, that I now design to speak; nor am I much disposed to address myself to those unimaginative matter-of-fact people who associate with a garden no other idea than it is a place where cabbages and cucumbers come from, and whose notions of improvement can get no farther than they are carried by a sort of gastronomic instinct, that it would be nicer to have green peas and melons in May, than to wait for them till July. Not that I would undervalue or speak lightly of the useful, or in any degree damp the ardour of the amateur; but I would leave these branches of the subject to another opportunity, or to abler hands. The attractions to the pursuits of the garden which I now select for notice, are those which may be supposed to exert an influence, in refining our tastes, and promoting our moral and intellectual improvement. The age in which we live is one distinguished for its ceaseless activity, and its advancement in the practical arts of life. It is essentially utilitarian, and there is in it a strong and increasing tendency to reduce persons as well as things, to the same common level, and to exclude all other standard of value, than such as is based upon money, or is reducible to money's worth. This spirit has not left untouched the gifted minds of our day; and it is to be feared that, with many, even of those most highly endowed, there is a tone less elevated than that which gave dignity and glory to the giants in our father's days. It has been said, and with, at least, a semblance of truth, that a great epic poem could not now be written; and it might be added, that if written, it would scarcely find a reader. The genius of poesy, perhaps of eloquence too, seems to have reached and passed its loftiest summit, amid another generation of men. The ideal is fading before the real. The imaginative is yielding to the visible and material: and man's energies are devoted from morning to night, for days—for years—for life—to the hardening and narrowing pursuits of gain. Amid the whirl and excitement of these pursuits, in the rivalry and conflict of the Exchange, the Bar, the Senate, there is no room for the unobtrusive and tranquil moralities of life. The ruder and more selfish qualities of our heads and hearts are constantly stimulated and strengthened, while no adequate agent is brought to shed its genial, counteracting influence upon them. It can scarcely be denied, that, with reference alone to the enjoyment of this world, even in its most worldly sense,

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we have fallen into a greivous error in devoting so much of our time, and of our anxieties, to what is called business; that is, to the mere acquisition of wealth. These high capacities of our nature for improvement, the deep and pure sources of happiness, which are at once so simple and inexhaustible, were not given us to be thus deadened and dried up by a sordid and unremitting labor.

"In the true order of human conduct, duties, devotion to our Maker, active benevolence to our fellow-creatures, claim the first place. Then comes the enjoyment of life, including, in its highest form, the improvement and exercise of our social affections, moral sentiments, and intellectual powers; and last of all comes the labour which is necessary to supply our wants. But, by a strange perversion, this order is reversed, and the curse pronounced in Paradise is voluntarily extended and increased. First in place, as in importance, is put the labor for gain, and so extravagant are its requirements upon our time and thoughts, that, when satisfied, little, and too often nothing, remains to devote to the more sacred claims of the others. For my own part, I am as fully persuaded as I can be of any speculative truth, that this incessant toil upon the mere dusty paths of human life, as it impairs the dignity of the individual, so it tends, sooner or later, by lowering the standard of virtue and knowledge, to degrade the character of a people.

"If these views be just, then, whatever is likely to lessen or suspend this tendency of every-day life, however simple in its form, or unpretending in its nature, cannot be regarded with indifference. Such an influence do I claim for the pursuits of Horticulture, and there rest its pretensions to your support.

"In the presence of so many who know, from experience, the enjoyment found in the cultivation of the garden and the pleasure ground, it will, perhaps, be deemed idle for me to dwell upon the subject. They know that it is impossible to be in habits of daily contact, intercourse I will call it, with the beautiful creations of the vegetable world, the fruits and flowers, which are not absent from even the most humble garden, without a feeling of admiration and interest being awakened, which, if encouraged, opens up sources of gratification, as abundant as they are salutary to mind and body. Amid the health-giving exercises of the garden, with enough to interest, but nothing to agitate, the mind is withdrawn from the vulgar excitements which weary and corrode it; the heart is tranquilized, and looks forth, as from a haven of rest, upon the tempest it has left behind. Then comes up the dominion of old thoughts; the fond recollections and endearing

associations of childhood ; the innocent spirit of other years returns upon us ; a consciousness of the value of the simple, the natural, takes possession of the soul ; and man, for the time at least, casts off the artificial character with which he is girded as in impenetrable armour, to do battle with the world, and abandons himself to the grateful and sweet influences around him. Can it be doubted that pursuits which can induce and sustain such a feeling, have a mighty power in refining, in elevating, in improving ? But this is not all. The occupation and pleasures of the Horticulturist are not stationary ; on the contrary, they are ever varying and progressive. Independently of the successive changes which every day and every season call forth, there are new things to be produced, and old things to be improved, and these in infinite number and variety ; and to do this he must have knowledge—knowledge of the immutable laws by which the subjects of his care are governed ; of the laws of their propagation and growth ; of their mechanical structure, their physiology, habits, and wants ; all this cannot be acquired without patient observation and study, nor applied without intelligence and ingenuity. No idea is more erroneous than that this art presents little more than a dull routine of labour in its practice, and is merely mechanical in its character ; on the contrary, as it was the first in order of time which engaged the attention of men, so it is now, let the worshippers of wordly greatness think what they may, inferior to none in true dignity and abiding usefulness. To those whose taste for this delightful art has been already formed, it is not expected that these observations will convey anything new. It is enough if they have embodied in language some of those sentiments which, floating in the mind, remain perhaps long unuttered, but never unfelt.

“But I would fain convey to the less initiated (if there be any such here), by some mode more efficacious than my poor expressions can afford—by some Mesmeric transfusion of thought, (leaving out the sleepy part,) a sense of the pleasure which is to, be derived from a patch of ground, of a few rods, nay, of a few feet, in extent, cultivated with our own hands ; containing plants of our own growth, reared by our own skill ; watched over with almost parental patience and anxiety, and rewarding our care by the gradual development of those indescribable beauties, which a beneficent Creator has so liberally bestowed, in one form or another, upon a large portion of his vegetable kingdom.

“I would have them feel that the serene delight with which we contemplate the bursting rose, in its unrivalled loveliness and matchless perfume, is a link in that great chain of sympathies, which binds us in

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strong communion with external nature. The voice, half pensiveness, half joy, which whispers to the heart from that exquisite and blushing flower, is the same which is heard fearfully in the murmurs of the mighty ocean, or the deep roar of the cataract. It bursts in thunder from the cloud—it speaks from the smiling face of mountain and valley—of rich woodland and waving corn-field—of sunny knoll and rippling stream. The song of the little birds sends it forth, and so does the majestic firmament of heaven. It speaks from the setting sun, as he sinks amid his gorgeous pavilion of purple and gold. It sighs softly in the dreamy hour of summer twilight; and then the silver moon, with the innumerable far-off twinkling stars, takes up the wondrous tale. It is the universal voice of creation, which, ever changing in its infinite variety of tones, is still the same; and thrills upon the soul of man with emotions and thoughts so deep, yet so indistinct—so little connected with the business of this world, and so mysteriously wandering, struggling, onward, upward to another; we might almost believe that, amid the ruin of our race, one chord of the glorious instrument was left unbroken by its Almighty Maker, to answer, in sweet but mournful and imperfect music, to the harmonies of all his works. Let it not be said that in all this there is nothing real, substantial, useful; that it is the mere exaggeration of a vivid fancy; for it is possible that these moral instincts are a more essential and enduring part of our being than the passions, which now impel and govern the course of human affairs. There is a meaning in these high aspirations, called up by the eloquent appeals of the material world around us; and it may happen that, when unnumbered ages shall have rolled over the buried hopes and fears, the ambitions, jealousies, triumphs and defeats, which make up life, this longing after the ideal of beauty—this dim half-consciousness of the reality of things unseen, will be remembered and comprehended by an enlarged sense, a higher intelligence, when time shall be no more.

“Upon this ground, then, of its tendency to improve our moral and intellectual nature, would I persuade our fellow-citizens to aid us in our endeavour to establish and maintain the Society, which is the object of the present meeting. If the observations I have had the honour to submit to you have any foundation in truth, then our project must interest all classes, as being of a character to add to the enjoyment of all. It proposes nothing beyond the reach of the poor man—nothing beneath the notice of the wealthy. Its charms are such as address themselves to the educated and refined, and no dignity of rank, by extending to it a kindly sympathy, or an active participation.

"To our fair friends, upon whom we rely for much and zealous support, I address no solicitations, for I am not using the language of compliment, but that of sober truth, when I say that woman's sensibility—her quick perception of the beautiful and excellent, in the moral as in the natural world; her purer aspirations, her more simple and quiet tastes—in all of which she far excels man's grosser nature—are a pledge that, on her part, no effort will be wanting to secure a vigorous and active existence to an institution, the objects of which accord so well with the essential tone and texture of her own character."

He then called for the Report of the Sub-Committee, appointed to draft the Constitution of the Society, when S. Jones Lyman, Esq., Corresponding Secretary, read as follows:—

"The Sub-Committee appointed to draft a Constitution for the 'Montreal Horticultural Society,' take the liberty of presenting their report, and, in doing so, would remark, that the duty assigned to them was entirely new and not unattended with difficulty. They are convinced that in some points the Constitution will be found defective. They trust, however, after the experience of a short time those deficiencies may be supplied, and such additions and alterations made as will better adapt it to the requirements and necessities of the Society. Your Committee would here take the opportunity of acknowledging their obligations, for many valuable suggestions, to the Report of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and they would now submit, for the approval of the Society, the following—

CONSTITUTION.

Preamble. THE undersigned, regarding, of the highest importance, the promotion of improvement in the Art, Science and Products of Horticulture, and believing that this can be best accomplished by means of Public Exhibitions, by the establishment of a Horticultural Library, by Public Lectures, by correspondence with similar institutions, and with practical and distinguished Horticulturists, as well as by the introduction of new and valuable varieties of Fruits, Flowers, and Vegetables, have, for this purpose, associated themselves as a Society; and have adopted, for their government and guidance, the following Constitution.

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ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the "MONTREAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY," and its Officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and twelve Directors, who shall be chosen by ballot, annually.

Name of Society and Officers.

ARTICLE II.

There shall also be chosen by ballot, annually, the following Committees, viz. :—

Committees.

A Committee for the Establishment of Premiums, consisting of four members.

A Committee on Horticultural Designs, Landscape Gardening, Birds, Tools and Seeds, consisting of three members.

A Committee on Fruits, consisting of three members.

A Committee on Plants and Flowers, consisting of three members.

A Committee on Vegetables, consisting of three members.

ARTICLE III.

The Annual Meeting for choice of Officers, Directors, and Committees, shall be held on the second week in January; notice of which meeting shall be published by the Recording Secretary, in one French and one English newspaper, having the largest circulation, printed in the City of Montreal, at least six days before the time of election.

Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

The mode of Election shall be by ballot. A majority of votes shall constitute a choice; the President, or person acting in his place, in all cases of election, to have the casting vote.

Mode of Election.

ARTICLE V.

Five Members, exclusive of the Presiding Officer, shall constitute a quorum, for the transaction of the business of the Board of Direction; and thirteen Members shall form a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Society.

Quorum.

ARTICLE VI.

Board of Direction.

Its duties.

The Officers of the Society, with the Directors, shall form a Board for the government of the Society; shall hold Meetings, quarterly, or as often as they may be deemed expedient; shall appoint the time and place for holding Exhibitions; make such rules and regulations, respecting the same, as may be deemed expedient; make and publish before the 15th day of February, of each year, a full and specific list of prizes to be awarded; establish correspondence; form a Library of works pertaining to Horticulture, as soon as practicable; encourage the introduction of new objects of Horticulture; and, for the purpose of promoting the interests and objects of the Society, (subject to the instruction, supervision and controul of the Society) shall keep a record of all their proceedings, and make a report of the same to the Society, at its Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Vacancies,
how filled.

Whenever any vacancy shall occur in any of the offices of the Society, it may be filled by a Special Election by the Board of Direction, at such time as they deem expedient, of which one week's notice shall be given by the Recording Secretary, in writing, to each Member of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII.

Duties of
President.

The duty of the President shall be to preside at all Meetings of the Society, to maintain order, to state the business before the Society; in case of equal division upon any question, to give the casting vote, to call for accounts and Reports of all Committees, to call extra meetings of the Society, when requested, in writing, by five Members; and generally to superintend the execution of such By-Laws and Regulations as the Society shall from time to time enact, not otherwise provided for.

ARTICLE IX.

Duties of Vice
President.

In case of the absence of the President at any Meeting of the Society, it shall be the duty of the senior Vice-President (in the order of his election) then present, to take the chair, who shall, for the time being, have and

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exercise all the authority, privileges, and power of the President; and in case neither the President or either of the Vice-Presidents shall be present, the Society shall then choose, *via voce*, a President, *pro tempore*, who shall, for the time, be invested with all the power and authority of the President.

ARTICLE X.

The Treasurer shall receive all sums of money due or payable to the Society, and shall keep and disburse the same, as may be directed by the Board of Direction, of which he shall render a true account: no payments to be made without the written order of the President, or, (in case of his absence from the City of Montreal,) of the senior Vice-President.

Duties of
Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI.

The Corresponding Secretary shall write all letters, in the name of the Society, and conduct its correspondence; shall keep copies of the same, in a book to be provided for the purpose, which shall be open to the inspection of the Members at any regular meeting; shall also receive and read all letters and papers addressed to the Society, and shall dispose of them in such manner as shall be prescribed by the By-Laws, or directed by the Society; shall report to the Board of Direction the receipt of all donations of Seeds, Plants or Specimens to the Society, when they shall be appropriated in such manner as deemed best, (the recipients from time to time making report of their success.) In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary shall perform his duties; and in the absence of both Secretaries, the President shall appoint either a Corresponding or Recording Secretary, or both, *pro tempore*.

Duties of
Correspond-
ing Secretary.

ARTICLE XII.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to give due notice of all Meetings of the Society, and Board of Direction; he shall record the proceedings of the same in a book to be kept for that purpose. In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, he shall perform his duties.

Duties of
Recording
Secretary.

ARTICLE XIII.

Committee
for establishing
premiums

It shall be the duty of the President to appoint the Chairmen or Conveners of the Committees, named in Article 2, which Chairmen or Conveners shall constitute the Committee for establishing premiums, whose duty it shall be to present to the Board of Direction, for their approval, from time to time, a list of premiums recommended by them.

ARTICLE XIV.

Committee
for awarding
Premiums.

The Committee for awarding premiums and gratuities, shall consist of the Committee on Landscape Gardening, &c., the Committee on Fruits, Committee on Plants and Flowers, and Committee on Vegetables. Three Members of either of these Committees shall be a quorum; and if three Members shall not be in attendance, the President, with advice and consent of those Members present, may call to his aid such other Members as he may see fit to appoint for the occasion. It shall be their duty, respectively, to attend at the Society's Hall, or Place of Exhibition, one hour before the same is open to the public; to examine and label the specimens exhibited, and to award the premiums or gratuities; also to attend at such other times and places as may be prescribed by the Society, and shall have power to make rules in regard to the time and manner of exhibiting specimens, for the premiums, — submitting the same to the Society for approval. It shall also be their duty to examine all new Plants, Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables, presented at the exhibitions, and to report the botanical name, description and merit of the respective specimens, and report to the Board of Direction, within fourteen days after the exhibition, the premiums and gratuities awarded by them; all such awards, whether as medals, money, or plate, or a certificate thereof, signed by the Chairman of the respective Committees, shall be presented and given to persons entitled thereto, or to their representatives, by the President or presiding officer of the Society, at the next meeting subsequent to that at which the award was made; and the names of persons to whom premiums or gratuities shall have been awarded, in the course of the year, shall be duly recorded, and such publicity given thereto as the Society may from time to time

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direct : provided always, that no person shall act with, or as a Member of, the said Committee in awarding any prize for which he may himself be a competitor.

ARTICLE XV.

There shall be an Annual Exhibition of Fruits, Plants, Flowers, Vegetables, Horticultural Designs, &c., on such day or days, (in the month of September) and subject to such rules and regulations as the Board of Direction may approve ; there shall also be exhibitions at such other times and seasons as may be by them deemed expedient.

Annual and occasional Exhibitions.

ARTICLE XVI.

Any individual may become a Member of this Society by the annual payment of ten shillings, and shall be entitled to vote, shall be eligible to any office or appointment, receive a printed copy of the published transactions of the Society, a printed copy of the Constitution, free admission, and may introduce two ladies to all the exhibitions of the Society, which admission shall be regulated by tickets, not transferable.

Privileges of Members.

ARTICLE XVII.

The contribution of £5 shall constitute a Life Membership, and exempt the Member from all future contributions.

Life Members

ARTICLE XVIII.

The Society, on the recommendation of the Board of Direction, may elect as Honorary and Corresponding Members, such distinguished individuals as have contributed to the promotion of Horticulture, to whom the Corresponding Secretary shall transmit a notification or certificate of election, countersigned by the President. Such Members shall not, by this act, be entitled to any of the pecuniary, elective or controlling privileges of the Association.

Honorary and Corresponding Members.

ARTICLE XIX.

Any Member who, after notice, shall neglect for the space of one year, to pay his annual subscription, shall cease to retain his connection with the Society, and the Treasurer shall have power to erase his name from the list of Members ;

Names of Defaulters to be erased from the book.

and any Member may withdraw from the Society, by giving notice to the Treasurer or Secretary, and paying the amount due by him to the Society. If any Member shall do any thing to dishonor the Society, place on the tables or in the Hall, for exhibition or premium, any Plant, Fruit or Specimen, bearing his name, not of his own growth, manufacture or designs, with an intention to deceive, or shall be guilty of any breach of good faith towards the Society, he may be expelled therefrom—two-thirds of the Members present voting for his expulsion; but no Member shall be expelled without a written notice of the motion be served upon him, personally, or left at his usual place of abode, at least ten days before it is acted upon.

ARTICLE XX.

Fiscal year.

The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of January, and all annual subscriptions shall be deemed and taken as due at that time.

ARTICLE XXI.

Premiums, to whom awarded.

Premiums and gratuities may be awarded to such persons as shall have essentially advanced the objects of the Society, or for the exhibition of any Fruits, Plants, Flowers or Vegetables, of their own growth or cultivation, either new in their kind, or of uncommon excellence, or for any new and successful method of cultivating any kind of fruits, flowers, vegetables, shrubs, plants or trees, or for any other subject connected with Horticulture.

ARTICLE XXII.

Donations & Bequests.

All donations and bequests shall be sacredly appropriated to the particular object for which they were designed by the donor; and the name, amount and description of each donation shall be registered in a book kept for that purpose.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Subscription.

No Member shall be entitled to receive a premium or gratuity, without having previously paid to the Treasurer his annual subscription.

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ARTICLE XXIV.

As this Society is formed for the advancement of Horticulture in Canada, it is understood that no plant shall be placed in competition for the regular prizes of the Society, except it shall have been in the Province for the space of three months, and is *bona fide* the property of the member offering it. The Committee may offer gratuities for the introduction of any foreign production.

Plants to be
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competitor.

ARTICLE XXV.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Society may be altered and amended at any regular meeting of the Society; a notification of the intended alteration having been made at a previous meeting, and two-thirds of those present voting for such alteration or amendment.

Alteration,
how made.

Moved by Wm. Lunn, Esq., seconded by the Hon. A. N. Morin :

1. **RESOLVED**,—That the Constitution which has now been read, be adopted as that of the Montreal Horticultural Society, and that the additional number of officers necessary to fulfil its requirements be at this time elected by nomination.

Mr. Morin said that the object of the Society was not only to give pleasure, but also to provide a better means of knowing and admiring the glories of creation, so as to elevate and improve those who took part in it. In England, France and Germany, similar societies had been of very great utility, and they would certainly be so here. He would now translate into French the Constitution that had just been read.

Moved by the Reverend Messire Villeneuve, seconded by His Honor Judge Badgley :

2. **RESOLVED**,—That while Horticulture is a source of pure and innocent pleasure, its influence is of a moral and elevating character, and its utility in promoting social comfort and happiness, renders the advancement of the art of the highest importance.

The Reverend Gentleman being unable to address the meeting with sufficient fluency in English, spoke in French to the following effect :—

Ayant été choisi, par les Directeurs de la société naissante, pour montrer l'importance d'une société d'Horticulture, dans l'état actuel du pays, j'ose prendre la parole, après les honorables orateurs que vous venez d'entendre, non pour développer les avantages qu'une telle société renferme, le temps ne me le permettrait pas, mais pour représenter, comme dans un tableau, les principaux motifs qui doivent engager les personnes qui m'écoutent à déployer le plus grand zèle pour favoriser et étendre une société si agréable et en même temps si utile. Heureux si mes paroles peuvent déterminer une bouche plus éloquente que la mienne, à prendre les intérêts d'une si belle cause.

Sous quelque rapport que l'on envisage l'horticulture, elle est, pour celui qui s'y livre par goût, une source abondante de délassements et de plaisirs. Il n'en est pas des jouissances qu'elle procure comme de celles que l'on obtient par d'autres voies : loin de s'affaiblir avec le temps, ces jouissances deviennent de jour en jour plus vives, parceque chaque jour manifeste de nouvelles merveilles. Plus on s'occupe à la culture des plantes, plus on y trouve de goût ; plus on l'aime. Voyez l'amateur dans sa serre, voyez-le dans son jardin, se lasse-t-il de visiter ses plantes, d'admirer ses fleurs ? Il va de l'une à l'autre ; après les avoir visitées toutes, il y revient encore ; vingt fois vous le trouvez devant la même fleur : vingt fois vous le trouvez devant le même fruit. Au milieu d'une occupation si douce, les heures s'écoulent avec la rapidité de l'éclair. J'en appelle à l'expérience de tous ceux qui m'écoutent.

On pourrait croire que ces jouissances si pures ne sont que le partage de ceux qui, par leur position sociale, peuvent se procurer à grand prix ce que la nature offre de plus beau et de plus rare. Heureusement il n'en est pas ainsi ; dans toutes les classes de la société, on peut goûter un plaisir si innocent et si pur. Je dirai même que les classes moyennes et les classes ouvrières trouvent plus de charmes que le riche dans la culture d'une fleur, d'un arbre, voire même d'une plante qui doit servir aux besoins de leur famille. Rarement celui qui jouit d'une grande fortune se procure le plaisir de cultiver par lui-même : il confie à des mains étrangères le soin de ses serres et de ses jardins. Son plaisir est de voir et de faire admirer les fleurs nouvelles, dont il enrichit chaque jour sa collection. Quand il réunit des amis à sa table, il est heureux de pouvoir leur offrir les beaux fruits qu'il a fait cultiver

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avec tant de soins. Sans doute ce plaisir est grand, il est pur, il est noble ; mais qu'il est inférieur au plaisir que ressent celui qui cultive par lui-même ! L'horticulteur pratique voit croître ses plantes, il étudie leurs besoins ; il veille à leur conservation ; c'est une tendre mère qui prodigue ses soins à un enfant qui réclame toute sa sollicitude ; aussi, quel bonheur pour lui quand ses travaux sont couronnés de succès ; il faut le voir montrant la fleur, objet de tant de soins et d'affections. Comme il rappelle avec complaisance tout ce qu'il a tenté, tout ce qu'il a fait, toutes les difficultés qu'il a surmontées pour arriver à un si beau résultat. Rien ne peut exprimer sa joie et ses transports, il semble partager avec son Créateur les beautés que sa plante renferme.

Mais pourquoi tant insister sur les charmes de l'horticulture, sur les jouissances qu'elle procure aux classes inférieures ? c'est afin que vous usiez de toute votre influence pour répandre, parmi tous nos concitoyens, ce goût, cet amour pour les plantes ; n'est-il pas juste que, nos frères supportant tout le poids du travail, nous leur fassions partager nos jouissances, nous mêlions quelques consolations à leurs peines.

Ces jouissances si pures ne sont pas le seul avantage que nous leur procurerons : la culture des plantes a un effet moral bien plus grand et bien plus appréciable. Elle les éloignera de plus en plus de ces vices grossiers, qui de temps en temps affligent encore notre belle patrie. Oui, messieurs, si la société d'horticulture exerce, par votre zèle, l'influence qu'elle est appelée à exercer, elle contribuera puissamment à extirper ce vice honteux, qui ravale l'homme au-dessous de la brute. En quittant son travail, l'ouvrier, qui s'adonne par goût à la culture des plantes, ne va pas chercher son repos dans les repaires de l'intempérance : les plantes, objets de ses soins et de ses affections, l'appellent. Il se hâte de se rendre au sein de sa famille, où les fleurs lui apprennent à trouver son bonheur : il sait que la négligence d'un jour peut lui faire perdre le fruit de tant de travaux, l'aimable objet de tant de sollicitude. L'amateur ne se lasse point de prodiguer ses soins ; plus il s'occupe de ses plantes, plus il désire s'en occuper, les plaisirs qu'elles lui procurent ne perdent rien de leurs attraits, tous les jours il s'y attache davantage ; tous les jours il en ressent un plus pressant besoin. Les arbres et les fleurs semblent nous faire goûter encore les délices dont elles inondaient le cœur de nos premiers parents dans le paradis terrestre, où les avait placés la bonté de leur Créateur. Nous ne pouvons pas comme dans cet heureux séjour apercevoir ce monde de merveilles qui nous environnent, et qui par un harmonieux concert chan-

tent continuellement la bonté, la sagesse et la toute-puissance de notre Dieu ; mais quand quelqu'une de ces merveilles peut arriver jusqu'à nous, elle produit encore l'effet pour lequel elle a été créée : elle élève notre âme, elle satisfait nos sens. Aussi l'horticulteur, qui, plus que tout autre, est appelé à admirer les ouvrages de la création, trouve-t-il dans la culture des plantes des plaisirs, des charmes qu'il chercherait vainement ailleurs. Là, point de remords, les jouissances sont pures comme les objets qui les font naître. C'est ainsi que la société d'horticulture peut contribuer puissamment à extirper l'intempérance, et à rendre les hommes meilleurs.

Un autre avantage qui naîtra de cette société, ce sera l'union des cœurs. L'Horticulteur trouve sans doute un grand plaisir à voir la fleur qu'il a semée, l'arbre qu'il a planté, le beau légume qu'il a cultivé ; mais sa plus douce jouissance est de faire admirer aux autres ce qu'il regarde comme son ornement et sa gloire. Voulez-vous donc resserrer les liens qui doivent unir les membres qui composent cette cité si florissante, donnez de l'élan à votre société. C'est en se livrant à l'horticulture que les citoyens de Montréal apprendront à se connaître et à s'aimer. Rivalisant de zèle pour avoir les plus belles fleurs, ou les plus beaux fruits, ils visiteront ceux qui peuvent leur disputer la palme, ils visiteront leurs jardins et seront heureux qu'on visite le leur. De là ces rapports de bienveillance, qui apprennent à se connaître. En faut-il davantage pour s'estimer et s'entendre ? Les excellentes qualités, qui distinguent ceux qui forment la population du Canada, doivent leur faire aimer leur origine. L'Anglais est fier d'être Anglais, et il a raison de l'être ; si je n'étais pas Français je voudrais être Anglais. Le sang qui coule dans les veines des deux peuples est assez noble et assez généreux pour que chacun soit satisfait d'être ce qu'il est. La société d'horticulture permettra d'apprécier ces bonnes qualités : ainsi verra-t-on disparaître peu à peu ces divisions qu'entretiennent les préjugés d'éducation et d'origine. Pour s'aimer et s'entendre, le Canadien et l'Anglais n'ont besoin que de se connaître. Qui ne travaillerait avec ardeur à procurer une fin si désirable ? c'est de là que dépend l'avenir de notre beau Canada.

J'aurais encore à vous parler des avantages matériels, qui sont le fruit de l'horticulture ; mais je craindrais d'abuser de l'attention bienveillante dont vous voulez bien m'honorer ; d'ailleurs qui pourrait douter que cet art ne soit pour le pauvre comme pour le riche une source abondante de commodités et de bien-être. Je me borne donc à rappeler ici, que la pomme de terre (patate) si utile à toutes les classes de

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la société, est un produit de l'horticulture, on la cultive dans les jardins avant de la livrer à l'agriculture. Et dans ce moment, où la maladie de ce précieux tubercule réduit tant de millions de nos frères aux horreurs de la famine, c'est encore à l'horticulture à sauver ce trésor des pauvres par de nouveaux essais, et à fournir d'autres légumes qui puissent le remplacer, si la Divine Providence rendait infructueux tous les efforts de l'art.

Puisque la société d'horticulture réunit tant d'avantages à tant de charmes, quel est celui qui pourrait lui refuser son concours ; aussi j'espère que vous rivaliserez de zèle, pour y entrer et la répandre. Encouragée par vous, elle deviendra pour notre beau pays une source inépuisable de jouissances pures, d'union et de prospérité.

Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci.

Mr. F. Johnson supposed, as the Horticultural Society had yet scarcely began its operations, the company might expect some flowers of rhetoric to make up for the want of flowers of the garden. However, in coming before them, he intended only to find fault with the proceedings of the Chairman, who had gleaned all the grain, and left nothing but stubble and straw. But, in their relative position, it might seem somewhat presumptuous for so humble a member of the bar to complain of a member of the bench ; he would therefore content himself with moving the third resolution.

Moved by F. G. Johnson, Esq., seconded by W. F. Coffin, Esq. :

3. RESOLVED,—That regarding the establishment of societies as the best means of promoting improved Horticulture, we hail with pleasure the formation of this Society, and pledging ourselves to its support, we earnestly solicit the cordial coöperation of our fellow citizens.

John Boston, Esq., made a few excellent remarks on the importance of Horticultural Societies, in the course of which he alluded to the rate of subscription, as being altogether too low,—nothing short of a golden guinea should be the annual amount, and even then he considered the return would be ten-fold. He had been connected with societies formerly, and the meetings and exhibitions were the most pleasant occasions. The rich and delicate repasts on the choicest fruits, the sight and delightful perfume of the rarest and most beautiful flowers and plants, were

ample compensation—apart from the importance to the community of promoting Horticulture—for any amount of time and money expended in furthering the objects of the Society.

Moved by John Boston, Esq., seconded by His Honor the Mayor :

4 **RESOLVED**,—That the following gentlemen be elected to fill the offices provided for in the constitution :—

PRESIDENT:

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE DAY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

THE REV. MR. VILLENEUVE,		HON. A. N. MORIN.
WILLIAM LUNN, Esq.		HON. WM. BADGLEY.

TREASURER:

JOHN FROTHINGAM, Esq.

S. JONES LYMAN, Esq., *Corresponding Secretary.*

GEORGE PLATT, Esq., *Recording Secretary.*

DIRECTORS:

JOHN TORRANCE, Esq.		GEORGE DESBARATS, Esq.
GEORGE SHEPPARD, Esq.		J. E. GUILBAULT, Esq.
JAMES FERRIER JR., Esq.		E. MUIR, Esq.
GEO. MCKERRACHER, Esq.		JOSEPH SAVAGE, Esq.
HENRY CORSE, Esq.		T. BOUTILLIER, Esq.
JOHN DONEGANA, Esq.		JOHN REDPATH, Esq.

COMMITTEE ON HORTICULTURAL DESIGNS, LANDSCAPE GARDENING, &c:

MR. WELLS, JUNR.,		REV. MR. VILLENEUVE,
		T. BOUTILLIER, Esq.

COMMITTEE ON FRUITS:

H. CORSE, Esq.,		J. E. GUILBAULT, Esq.
		MOSES J. HAYS, Esq.

PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

J. J. GIBB, Esq.,		MR. CUSHING,
		MR. WILSON.

VEGETABLES:

STANLEY BAGG, Esq.,		E. MUIR, Esq.
		GEORGE GARTH, Esq.,

The thanks of the meeting were then given to the Chairman, and the Company separated.

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ATS, Esq.
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Chairman,

