

## Horticultural Personals.

☞ Marshall Pinckney Wilder has to-day (September 22) reached his eighty-eighth birthday. He was born at Rindge, New Hampshire, and developed his love for rural life on his father's farm. In 1825 he established himself as a merchant in Boston, but throughout his whole career as a business man, he cherished his love for the cultivation of fruits and flowers. His name is intimately associated with the earlier work of Horticulture in this country, and from 1840 to 1848 he was President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1848 the American Pomological Society was organized, of which he has since been the honored President. He holds his age well, and many a horticulturist in the prime of life might well be proud of the work Mr. Wilder is doing, even in his extreme age, for progressive pomology.

☞ Geo. C. McClatchie, of Ludington, who writes so well concerning the culture of the plum, has secured his information in pomology principally from actual experience. Seventy years ago he was a school teacher at Montreal, Canada. At that time there was quite a movement to Northern Michigan, and he prospected, finding a location that filled three conditions: 1st, Health; 2d, Opportunity to start without capital; 3d, A prospect of good markets for produce in the near future. He reported the facts to his wife, and they agreed to start in the woods of Mason county. At that time they had never even seen peaches growing. His first purchase of peach trees produced fruit the third year after founding his new home. This success led to planting of peach seed, and by accident he found that the plum succeeded well upon the peach root. Since then he has grown and grafted his own plum stock, and to-day is a recognized authority on plum culture.

☞ John J. Thomas, the author of *The American Fruit Culturist*, was born in 1810, and has been a ready writer on rural topics since 1833. He is a keen observer, is thoroughly practical, and no one

can give clearer and better advice on matters of pomology than he. He has been Associate Editor of the *Country Gentleman* since its first issue, and will be remembered by students of agriculture as the conductor of the publication of *Illustrated Rural Affairs*, the nine volumes of which form a valuable library for any farmer.

☞ Prosper J. Berckmans, of Georgia, whose sudden illness prevented him from being present and presiding at the recent session of the American Pomological Society, is a leader in American pomology. He has originated and disseminated numbers of new and valuable fruits. He is a thoroughly educated man, and combines a knowledge of northern fruits with accurate and ready information concerning the semi-tropical fruits, probably not enjoyed by any other horticulturist on the continent.

☞ Prof. W. J. Beal, who has just retired from the position of Secretary of the American Pomological Society, is a botanist from choice, and purposes doing his best work in the future in the study of botany and methods of instruction in this science. He accepted the Chair of Botany and Horticulture at our State Agricultural College in 1870, not anticipating that his severest work would be for twelve years in the field of horticulture. But Michigan has been the gainer thereby, and while the change by which botany and horticulture are given separate departments, is welcomed by fruit growers in Michigan, all accord to Prof. Beal the credit of a large measure of the success which has been recently achieved in placing Michigan pomology at the front.

☞ The *Rural New Yorker* says of Patrick Barry, the eminent horticulturist: "Born of Irish farmer parentage, near the great linen mart of Belfast, Patrick Barry reached America a youth of 20, empty-handed, and with nothing before him but the wide, wide world. To-day he ranks among the solid financial powers of the Empire State."