

## Report of the Executive Committee.

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The success which attended the operations of the Association, during the first year of its existence, induced your committee to accept with confidence the duties imposed upon them. As a means of attracting the attention of the public to the objects which led to the formation of the Association, and to demonstrate the perfection to which fruits of the finest quality could be grown in this State, we were of opinion that an annual exhibition should, at the present stage of our affairs, have a prominent place in our arrangements. It was with pleasure, therefore, that we accepted the invitation of the Milwaukee Horticultural Society, to hold the exhibition of the present year in connection with their own. Notwithstanding the violent storm of wind and rain, which preceded and attended the days of exhibition, and which prevented the attendance of many who designed to be present, the collection of fruits was quite as extensive, and in some respects superior to that of the previous year. The interest manifested in our success by the members of the Horticultural Society, and their hearty co-operation in promoting it, is worthy of especial notice. The arrangements for holding a convention for discussions, etc., during the progress of the exhibition, were made as carefully as possible; it was found, however, that no time could be spared for that purpose, and it was necessarily postponed.

The experience of the past two years, has led us to the opinion that the offering of premiums for fine fruits—though perfectly proper in itself considered—interferes injuriously with objects of more importance. The primary object of the Association was, by annual or more frequent exhibitions, to collect fruits from all parts of the State, so that by actual inspection and comparison,

and by a free interchange of facts and opinions relating thereto, its members might attain a knowledge of the varieties best adapted to our climate and soil, and the best modes of cultivating the same. As in other societies, so in our own, those most interested in its prosperity, are delegated to do the work, and by the pressure of duties imposed upon them at the exhibitions, the object for which many, coming from a distance, and at no small sacrifice of valuable time to attain, is defeated. We therefore recommend that the practice of awarding premiums be discontinued, and that the future exhibitions of the Association be arranged with more direct reference to the convenience and profit of its members.

By the list of members for the present year, it will be seen that two-thirds of the whole number are from the City of Milwaukee, and while we commend the spirit which has induced so many of those not personally interested in the culture of fruits to give us their aid, we cannot but contrast it with the comparative indifference of those living in the country, whose direct advantage the Association is so well designed to promote.

The report of the Treasurer exhibits a balance in favor of the Association, which will enable us to defray the expenses attending the publication of the "Transactions for 1855." We hope to have them issued at an early day, and that a full report of the discussions of the Convention, with other papers now in our hands, will render them acceptable to the members.

J. C. BRAYTON,  
 CHARLES GIFFORD, } Executive Committee.  
 A. G. HANFORD.