commended the effort of this society, and could but hope they might so press the matter upon the attention of the legislature, that the aid asked for might be granted. The university would be glad to undertake this work, but it had no means. All its funds are tied up in the lands granted by the United States, and which at the present rates of sale would require forty years to sell. Up to the present time lands enough had not been sold to pay the absolute salary of a single professor in the institution. The object was worthy, and ought to be prosecuted, but the university was powerless to assist in carrying it forward.

The memorial was unanimously adopted, and on motion, a committee was appointed to present the same to the legislature and urge its passage.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIETY.

The treasurers report was then read and received by the meeting. This showed a balance in the hands of the treasurer of $180.25.

Mr. Findlayson moved that the executive committee be instructed to draw upon the treasurer for the amount of the premiums awarded for seedling apples; which prevailed.

Mr. Stickney moved that an order be drawn on the treasurer for fifty dollars, in favor of O. S. Willey, for his services in preparing the report of the transactions, and other duties as secretary; which prevailed.

Mr. Stickney then read the following

ESSAY ON GENERAL NURSERY MANAGEMENT.

Mr. President and Brother Horticulturists:

In thinking what I might say to you to-day, I have reviewed in my mind all the nurserymen of my acquaintance, and all the nurseries I have seen, and have endeavored to compare ours with other business men; and, as Widow Bedott said of humanity in a religious view, I am forced to exclaim of ourselves as business men, "We are all poor critters"; failing to
realize the greatness and importance of our calling; failing to do our duty even as far as we fully understand it; and failing to get the greenbacks, which we so richly earn and deserve.

The wants of a million farmers, in the way of agricultural machinery, are promptly supplied by enterprising mechanics, who call to their aid the necessary capital, employ the necessary labor, and so systematize both manufacture and sales as to benefit the capitalist, the laborer, and the farmer, and secure liberal profits for themselves. Why should the call for trees be less promptly met? Think, for a moment, of the homes in city, village and country, to be supplied with ornament, shade and fruit. Think of the extensive orchard-planting for commercial purposes; of the long lines for wind-breaks and the broad plantations for timber; include in this view, Wisconsin, Minnesota and northern Iowa, which is the ground particularly accessible to us. Do we fully estimate the amount of stock that might and should be planted in the next five years? Do we realize how much the amount actually to be planted depends upon the manner in which we keep the subject before the people? And can we imagine where all this stock is to come from?

If it is brought one or two thousand miles to be sold and planted here, we suffer a loss of a fair profit on the growth and sale of so much stock; and we allow the people, whom it is our duty to supply, to be taxed with freight, agents’ expenses, etc., and most probably to be so swindled in quality, as to be, at the end of a year’s effort, no further advanced than at the beginning. Is this what the country has a right to expect of us? Do the mechanics, merchants, and professional men of the country respond as feebly to the calls made upon them? In short, do we appreciate the greatness of our work?

That there is a general interest throughout the country on the subject of fruit and trees, we cannot doubt. Let a man talk “trees,” almost anywhere, and though his talk is impracticable and absurd, he has attentive listeners and some believers.

Now, whether worthily or otherwise, we stand before the
people as teachers, and this lively interest is to us like clay in the hands of the potter, to be fashioned as we will.

How important, then, that all our teachings be sound and practical; such as will lead to sure success. How should all our acts in meetings like the present, be stripped of all "ax-grinding," selfishness, sectional feeling, or personal ambition; and how carefully should we consider all the qualities of fruit or tree before recommending for general cultivation. Thus may we fashion the future forests and orchards of the country.

I do not forget the many and valid excuses that may be brought to cover our shortcomings. When I forget the flank movements of frosts and droughts practiced upon us, my memory will be poor indeed. When any of us forget the lessons we have learned, and so dearly paid for, we may take it as a hint that we are no longer fit for the active business of life.

That we, as a class, are full of the qualities necessary to the successful nurserymen, I cannot doubt. Who has more of driving energy? Who have pursued their one object with greater tenacity, or surmounted greater obstacles? Let us think of the past as an experimental school, wherein we have learned pleasing as well as bitter lessons, paid our full tuition, and from which we are now to graduate with enlarged views of our calling, and the necessary skill and knowledge to put those views into successful practice.

Ever uppermost in our minds is the question, what shall we plant? This is all important to us, and, though sometimes forgotten, equally important to our customers. Yes, more important to them, because with us results are reached in two to four years, while with them, the good or poor qualities run through many years.

Particularly important is this question as it relates to apples, because of these is the bulk and weight of our business, and of the farmers' planting. Observe any orchard of twenty varieties, and we shall find five to eight of the best kinds bearing more fruit and bringing more money than all the others. In view of this fact, I ask, why plant the twelve poorer kinds? If
we should strike these from our lists, should we or our customers suffer loss or inconvenience? Would it not rather be the removal of a burden? True, the enthusiastic amateur or nurseryman may take pride in his thirty or fifty kinds, as a collection, but this has little to do with the raising of trees or fruit for profit or as a means of support.

In consideration of their early maturity, and success in nearly all localities, I am led to think that we give the small fruits too little attention. I do not mean the wonderful novelties that flood us in such abundance, but the older and well proved. A few years ago, a brother nurseryman raised as an objection to going more largely into small fruits that, to make sales, we must be constantly getting up something new. In practice, I have not found this so. As an instance in proof I will mention grape, cherry and currant varieties, twenty years in our hands, yet of these we have demand for 80,000 to 40,000 annually, and have never yet had enough. Again, in strawberries, the demand for Wilson's is for thousands, while Jucundas, Agriculturist, and all the big guns of the past five years, are sold only by dozens or hundred. It would seem to me to be sound sense, a help to our business, and a benefit to the country, to take a few of the best varieties, in each class and push them with the same energy that the novelties are pushed. True, we get an occasional grain of wheat from all this over-praised chaff. But, instead of pushing along both chaff and wheat to our customers, and thereby taxing and disappointing them, should we not ultimately gain both honor and money by taking time to separate them, and selling only the grain?

On the departure of one of our best nurserymen to an enlarged field of labor, I asked him if the trouble of his present work were not enough? If he must needs undertake a thing so much larger as to kill him outright? I think his reply hits, and should enlighten nearly or quite all of us. It was as follows: "I have thus far been a slave to my business, being field-worker, foreman, salesman, packer, book-keeper, and porter; I am now going to a business that can support a man for each of
these offices." Now this certainly looks pleasant in theory. Is there any good reason why we may not, at least in part, reduce it to practice? The perfect system of manufactories we may not have. Weather, soils, and other things prevent, but system sufficient to accomplish much greater results with far less effort, we surely can and ought to have.

In the large nurseries about Rochester, I have noticed that they used labor far more lavishly than we do. There is, about all they do, an amount of patient pains-taking and thoroughness that surprised me. We cannot doubt but that this is a large element of success, and that as such it pays. Of course it would pay us as well, not only in dollars and cents, but in the stimulation and encouragement of success instead of failure.

Through want of this thorough pains-taking we suffer great loss. Take, for instance, any block of apple trees in any nursery. We find at least ten, and in many instances, twenty or forty per cent. of vacant places. Every vacancy is a positive loss of ten or fifteen cents, and the aggregate is large; quite too much to lose by neglect or indifference.

I have sometimes thought it would be better for each to take two or three articles and make specialties of them, thus securing the thoroughness and close attention so necessary to the best results. Certain it is, to my mind, that he who undertakes anything without this thoroughness, makes only slow and laborious progress. With it, we are masters of our business; without it, we are slaves. The necessary details will suggest themselves to each of us. Now let us decide the question, shall they be brain pictures, or paper sketches only, or will we put them in practice.

By our works and teachings, we have done something to turn public sentiment into the right tree-planting channels, but by example have we done what we might in that direction? Merchants and tradesmen have their show windows filled with beautiful workmanship, to stimulate and direct public taste. Where are our show windows? Where are our grounds, laid out in an artistic manner and planted with trees,
shrubs, and flowers, that are model specimens of their kind? Except in one instance I have yet to find this in any western nursery. When we think of the deep and lasting impression such examples make upon our own minds, we cannot doubt the power they would give to us to improve the tastes of others.

I do not think it strange that these things are not already done, but I do think that the time has now come for us to set earnestly about them.

In this there is no necessity for rare or curious things; rather let our grounds show the capabilities of things within the reach of all, and of manifest use to all. Neither, if circumstances do not favor it, do we need broad acres, or a large outlay of money.

In front of a tent on the camping ground of the first regiment Wisconsin sent to the war, I saw an example of gardening skill, that illustrated the beauty of simplicity, and showed what might be done with the simplest materials. It was a miniature garden cut from the green sod; the figures of the most perfect symmetry, bordered with smooth pebbles from the lake shore, and ornamented with a few mosses and a few simple plants in pots. The whole forming an object of beauty worthy of imitation in places of far greater pretensions.

And so may we, with but a fraction of the beautiful things of other climes, produce results that shall astonish even ourselves.

The happy and successful man, the man we all like, is he who makes the most of the things within his reach. With this in view, if any doubt or hesitate about the possibility of accomplishing the things herein suggested, with the means at command, let me ask, with our splendid evergreens and noble forest trees; with a liberal variety of successful small fruits, well in hand, and a firm and substantial background of crabs, and minor plums, why stand irresolute and idle, with a longing wish for the fruits and flowers of more favored lands? Were we in Cincinnati, feasting on delicious peaches, we should still lack the oranges of Florida, and thus would our longings
remain unsatisfied. Rather let us accept the situation, and fight out the battle on our present line.

The reading of this essay was followed by interesting remarks from Messrs. Plumb, Kellogg, and Stickney, upon the subject so ably discussed in the essay; and they gave many instances of well-kept grounds and nurseries they had visited.

Adjourned to 7 1-2 P. M.

7 1-2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The meeting was called to order agreeably to the adjournment, when, on motion of Mr. Lawrence, the following were appointed a committe on the nomination of officers, viz.: Messrs. Lawrence, Plumb, Greenman, Stickney and Kellogg.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Lawrence offered the following, viz:

Amend art. 4 of the constitution, by striking out the following lines:
"In addition to the foregoing officers, the presidents and secretaries of all local societies shall be deemed ex-officio members of the executive board," and inserting the following: "The presidents of all local societies shall be deemed honorary members, and ex officio vice-presidents of this society."

Which after consideration, was carried.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

On motion of Mr. Stickney, Gov. Lucius Fairchild, Dr. J. W. Hoyt, D. J. Powers, and Judge J. G. Knapp, were elected honorary members of this society.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, the executive committee were instructed to fix the premium list for the annual fair.

And the regular business of the meeting was then taken up, when Judge J. G. Knapp read an able paper upon the climate of this and the neighboring states, tracing the extremes of heat and cold, moisture and drought to their causes, so far as known at present; and urging the necessity of further observations, and collections of facts, as a means of counteracting the effects of those extremes.