

great luxury in Europe, and I have often wondered why they were not more used here."

"What are truffles?"

"They are a fungous growth, similar to the mushroom, and are found generally in soil impregnated with lime, and always in the neighborhood of oak or beech trees. They are found under the ground, at a distance varying from an inch to a foot, and are supposed to be a parasite, living in their early stage upon the roots of trees. They are oblong or spherical, and vary from the size of an English walnut to that of a large potato. Quite frequently I have known them to weigh two pounds, and once I found one that weighed three and a half pounds. Some are of a dull white color but the black or brown truffle has the finest flavor and brings the best price. Their surface is rough and covered with excrescences resembling warts, and judging from the exterior they would not be selected as an article of food. Internally they resemble a dark colored marble and are different from other known forms of fungi.

"But little is known about their propagation and growth. The reproductive portion is found in minute sacs, which contain a number of spores, and are thickly scattered through the numberless small veins that traverse the mass in every direction. In growing they are not attached to any other body, and lie loosely imbedded in the earth."

"In what localities are truffles found?"

"They are found in the greatest profusion in Southern France, and these are also of the best quality. They also grow in some parts of England, Germany, Italy, Australia and Africa. I have never heard of any being discovered in this country. My experience here, where I have endeavored to transplant them, as well as in Germany, where I spent many years in futile efforts to cultivate them artificially, has led me to approve the common opinion of truffle hunters, that a truffle is the most contrary thing in the world. When forced or coaxed, not one will appear; and frequently a field will be unexpectedly filled. No one knows where they come from. I have taken a small truffle out of the ground, filled up the hole, and the next day taken a larger one from exactly the same spot. Removing this second one, I have taken a third and still larger