

THE ASPEN.

Every country place should have that very coquette among trees, the aspen. It seems never to sleep. Its twining fingers are playing in the air at some arch fantasy almost without pause. If you sit at the window with a book, it will wink, and blink, and beckon, and coax, till you cannot help speaking to it. That must be a still day that does not see the aspen quiver. A single leaf will sometimes begin to wag and not another on the whole tree will move. Sometimes a hidden breath will catch at a lower branch, then shifting will leave these still, while it shakes the topmost twig. Though the air may move so gently that your cheek does not feel it, this sensitive tree will seem all of a shudder, and turn its leaves upward as with shuddering chill. It is the daintiest fairy of all the trees. I have seen such fair sprites, too, in human form. But one does not get off so easily if he takes too much sport with them. The aspen leaf makes no wounds. Its frolics spin no silken threads which one cannot follow and will not break.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

LOW-HEADED STANDARD PEAR TREES.

The advantages obtained by heading standard pear trees low are the following:—

Protection to the body of the tree.

Shading the ground and keeping it cool.

Light is admitted into the centre of the tree.

The fruit colours better and grows larger.

The trees come earlier into bearing.

Closer planting can be practised, and thus the trees protect each other.

Pruning and thinning out of fruit can be more conveniently and expeditiously done.

GARDEN GLEANINGS:

The common garden hydranges, says *Harpers Magazine*, will produce pale blue instead of pink flowers if the soil in which it is grown be mixed with one-sixth part of iron filings.

A subscriber to the *Rural New Yorker* is reported in that journal to have raised a Northern Spy apple during the past season that weighed nineteen ounces.

The "Lord Raleigh" Scuppernong grape vine, on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, was three inches in diameter in 1610, when his colony landed there. It now covers one acre and a half of ground, and produced last season forty-six barrels of wine. Another vine in Terrell County is mentioned which produced sixty-three barrels the same season.

A Port Huron, Mich., dealer has just returned from Liverpool, where he made a contract to deliver 10,000 barrels of apples at five dollars per barrel. He realised a net profit on the transaction of one dollar and seventy-five cents per barrel.

The berberry is a pleasing ornamental shrub, and answers well as a fancy hedge or screen; the bright yellow flowers in spring, and the scarlet or purple fruit in fall, which often hangs on nearly or quite all winter, producing a very pretty effect. A deep, rich loam suits it best, but it will grow well in any dry soil.

The apples of this season are not keeping as well as usual. The warmth of the past summer ripened them so thoroughly that late keeping winter apples are coming to maturity in the beginning of winter. And there is a great probability that by the first of March good apples will be scarce.

THE KILMARNOCK WILLOW has been planted in nearly every part of the Province, and we believe it has been quite hardy everywhere. Its graceful, pendant habit makes it a very ornamental tree, when planted around our dwellings. It is grown by grafting it at the desired height upon the black willow stock, from which point the branches grow downwards.

California is by far the best grape region in the United States and perhaps in the world. The pure air and equable climate prevent rot. The vines are planted five by six and eight feet apart and produce, with but little cultivation, five hundred to one thousand gallons of wine to the acre. I saw grapes selling at a cent a pound to the wine houses in Sacramento, and twelve pounds made a gallon of wine. Their fruit trees are planted closer together than with us, and trained low to prevent sun-scaud of the bark.—*Robert Buchanan in Journal of Horticulture.*

THE GLADIOLUS IN POOR SOIL.—Being a great admirer of that beautiful flower, the gladiolus, I beg to state in support of the opinion of some growers, that this flower does exceedingly well with me in very poor soil, very little better than brick rubbish, and the atmosphere is not very good, the place being only one mile from London Bridge. I mention these facts for the encouragement of those who may think soil and situation may not suit this flower. I have had spikes equal to those I saw this season at the Crystal Palace; they have been admired by experienced gardeners.—*William Edwards, Bermondsey, London, Eng.*

Tilton's Journal of Horticulture tells the following pleasant little story: "Our friend, General O, of Salem, a very earnest lover of flowers, as well as occasionally flowery in his speech, and not averse either to receiving or giving a witty repartee, was a few days since passing down the street upon which he resides, with an attractive bouquet of roses in his mouth. A fair neighbour whom he met, after admiring the floral display, asked him, in a rallying tone, if he had not room for a few more flowers between his lips. "O yes," quickly replied the general, "I can make room for your tulips." (two lips.)

"The fair one blushed and turned away,
And wishing yes, yet acted nay."

In grafting large trees commence at the top and leave the side branches for another year. The higher branches draw the sap more than lower branches, and if first grafted the result is more likely to be successful. Never graft all the branches in one season. It is dangerous to the health of the tree to make the leaves disproportionate to the roots.

There is a young apple merchant in Boston, not yet eleven years of age, who is laying a good foundation for the future. He employs four other boys younger than himself, apportioning them their districts for selling, and reaps a daily revenue of from four to ten dollars. All but one attend school and all are of native birth.