

MISCELLANEOUS.

PRINCE ALBERT'S FARM.

According to a writer in the Philadelphia *Zedger*, the late Prince Albert's farm is situated near Windsor Castle, about twenty miles southwest of London, occupies one thousand acres one hundred of which are never plowed, and is wooded and sown with orchard grass, top-dressed every four years with liquid manure. The arable land is subsoiled every two or three years with four enormously large horses, driven tandem; rotation of crops much the same as ours, without the Indian corn.

Barley and oats are crushed in a mill driven by steam; eighty short-horn and Alderney cows are kept; cow-stalls made of iron; iron troughs always full of water in each stall, with waste-pipe to gutter behind them, and thence to manure-shed, from which it is pumped into carts similar to ours for watering streets, and sprinkled over the grass. Keeps none but Suffolk and Berkshire pigs; prefers former on account of their taking on fat; as one of the swine-herds said, "A dale of fat a dale quicker."

The pig-pens are of stone, and paved with stone, being lower in the center, from which a pipe conducts the liquid manure to keep. In the garden I saw peach, apricot and plum trees trained espalier; pine apples, strawberries and grapes in all stages of growth; the latter finer than in countries to which they are indigenous and ripe all the year round. Melons will not grow in the open air, but they have very fine ones in frames. Her Majesty must certainly fare sumptuously every day. There are forty men to attend to the garden alone.

Mr. Tait, the gentlemanly manager of the farm, gave me every information desired. I also went to see the Queen's stables at Buckingham Palace; they would make more comfortable dwellings than two-thirds of the people of London live in. English farriers have found out that the upper part of the stall ought to be lowest by two inches at least. There are in those stables one hundred and six horses. Her Majesty is partial to greys, and may be seen driving two in hand in Windsor Park. The Princess Alice drives four ponies, and is said to be an excellent horsewoman. I saw the eight cream-colored horses that draw her Majesty at the time of opening or dissolving Parliament. Their harness is red morocco, gold-mounted cost \$10,000; and the state carriage cost \$35,000 ninety years ago.

REJUVENATING OLD APPLE TREES.

There are thousands of old apple trees in Maine that appear to be in the last stages of their existence, that might, with a little care and labor, be so completely "rejuvenated" that they would begin to produce large crops of fruit again, and continue to do it for years to come.

We have found that when an old tree becomes deadened in its larger limbs and is mossy on its trunk and exhibits other marks of decay, if it nevertheless throws up young suckers at its roots, along its trunks and around the forks and on the sides of the large limbs, it is a sure sign that there is yet vitality enough in it to ensure a successful improvement. We see many old

orchards that once gave large crops of valuable fruit, the trees of which now exhibit clusters and thickets of such suckers—a proof that they have been given over by their owners as past improvement, and therefore left to bush out as they might. They accordingly become covered with these suckers and bid fair to exhaust what vitality they have in production of a superabundance of wood in the form of scrubby brush. We have found such trees would soon repay the labor bestowed upon them. First the absolutely dead limbs should be sawed off, not too close into any live wood which may be found at the fork of it. Next, all decaying limbs, though not quite dead, had better be shortened in, prudently, not cutting away too much of them, especially if they have young suckers upon them, for they thus form the soil, as it were, or the groundwork and foundation of these suckers, in which is all our hope. This done, look over the array of young branches or suckers which cluster about the trunk and on the aged limbs. Consider what ones are in the best position, and which will form the best limbs when grown. Save all such and saw off the rest close in to the live wood of the present limbs. In this way you prepare, in fact, a series of young limbs for future bearing, and they will do it. Remember that it is the young that bear, and not the superannuated in the vegetable kingdom, as well as in the animal. If you desire a change of fruit in the tree, these young twigs, say from the size of a pipe stem to that of your thumb or larger, should be engrafted rather than the older and larger ones.

Attention should now be paid to the renovating the tree by fertilizing the soil in which it is planted. A tree, like a horse tethered to one spot, will in time, consume all the food that it can find within its reach, and must therefore, be supplied with an additional amount placed in its circle. Among the best of these are wood ashes and ground bones, muck, neutralized with lime, &c. &c. If neither of these can be readily obtained, good fresh loam, from the road side or a pasture, where no trees have grown, carted and spread around, will give a decided start to the decaying and hungry roots.

The editor of the *New England Farmer*, as does also one of his correspondents, (O. K. of Rochester, Mass.,) recommends from the experience of actual trial, to lay on good soil to the depth or height, if need be, of a foot to two feet. Heretofore it has been thought that it would be injurious, if not fatal to trees, to build up earth around them higher than what they have been accustomed to, but their experiments go to prove the incorrectness of this position.

Again, many old trees have hollows and cavities in and about their trunks occasioned by the decay of wood where injuries of some kind have been received. It is a good plan to clear off the dead and "punky" wood, and fill in or cover the bare shoots with some adhesive cement.

Forsyth, the author of a work on fruit trees, some twenty-five years ago, gained quite a celebrity by the invention and use of the following composition or plaster to be applied to decaying