

*Killing fowls, turkeys, etc.*—Always try to take poultry unawares when about to kill them. All animals keep better if they are killed when in a perfectly quiescent state. Hence, when the keepers in the deer-parks of England want to shoot a buck, one of them hides himself in a tree near the line followed by the herd at their evening grazing—they always pasture along the same route,—and puts a bullet through the heart of the buck selected: We always wring the necks of fowls, instead of messing them about with blood by sticking them. We see, by a paragraph in *Farming*, that cases are reported of turkeys arriving in England with their crops full of corn; they were so much decomposed as to be unfit for human food, and were, of course, a total loss.

By the bye, talking of deer, it may interest some of our readers to know that, in our larger English parks, where from 800 to 1,200 deer are kept, the produce is utilised in four forms. The first venison that appears on the London market is from the *Hevers*, i.e., castrated males of six years of age. These are taken in the fall in the following manner: two keepers, on horseback, having selected their victim, ride him out from the herd, and when separated from the rest of his friends, two rough-coated deer-hounds are slipped, and, strange to say, though the hunted buck may rejoin the herd and do his best to conceal himself among them, the dogs never leave him until they have pulled him down, when a net is thrown over him, his legs are tied securely—a kick from a buck is no trifle,—he is carried to the feeding-shed, castrated and set at liberty. The yard attached to the shed is surrounded with a strong oak paling 8 feet high. The hevers are fed, on horse-chestnuts, oats, and hay, till the following May, when they are sent to London, generally to one man who takes them every year, (1) and sold to the great City Companies for their "Founders' Feasts." The haunches, i.e., the leg and loin, usually fetch 5 guineas apiece.

Uncastrated males, 7-year-old bucks, are killed before "rutting-time," up to mid-September, after which time they are as 'rank' as a ram. Does, the old ones that is, are shot in November and December and are poorly flavoured meat.

The fawns, almost as soft in flesh as our *lepus*

(1) Rich, at the bottom of Ludgate Hill was the man in our day. Ed.

*Canadensis*, or rabbit, as it often erroneously called here, are the keeper's perquisite; a certain proportion of these are shot every summer when about six weeks old, and sold to any one who wants them at, say, 5 shillings each. Poor pasture makes good, well flavoured venison. A good buck weighs, dead, about 14 stone of 8 lbs., and, if well kept, is about the most delicious meat in the world. The "brown-muscle" and the "Alderman's walk," of the haunch, i.e., the layer of fat along the side of the loin, are the choicest morsels. A hot-water dish, with French-beans and red-currant jelly, are indispensable accompaniments; and when the haunch has been properly roasted before an open fire, in a *cradle-spit*, and wrapped in its case of stiff paste, the epicure who eats of it

"\*\*\* may safely say,

Fate cannot harm me, I have dined to-day."

*Value of dung.*—M. Ville, the great French agricultural chemist, makes the cost of farmyard dung 12s. a ton. The common English calculation is 5s. a ton. But, now, Mr. Geo. Prout, a well known practical farmer, will not hear of its being worth more than 1s. 6d! As he justly says: "The difference between that sum and 12s. is very great." The fact is, dung is a very variable commodity, its value depending greatly on the land it is applied to and the stuff eaten by the stock.

## ON FALLOWING.

(BY THE EDITOR.)

The great Baron Liebig, in his "Chemistry applied to Agriculture," defines a fallow in these words: "Fallow in its most extended sense, means that period of culture during which a soil is exposed to the action of the weather for the purpose of enriching it in certain soluble ingredients. In a more confined sense, the time of fallow may be limited to the intervals in the cultivation of cereal plants; for a magazine of soluble silicates, and alkalis, is an essential condition to the existence of such plants. The cultivation of turnips, during the interval, will not impair the fertility of the land for the cereals which are to succeed, because the former plants do not require any of the silica necessary for the latter. It follows then