

## PULVERIZE THE SOIL.

Voelcker, Professor of agricultural chemistry to the West of England Society, Exeter, thus writes as to pulverization of soil:—

"The efficacy of a manure or the practical effect of which it is capable, is greatly influenced by the mechanical condition of the land. Land varies very much in this respect, and, as a matter of course, the same manures act differently on land of different descriptions. I may illustrate this by referring to experiments I have made on land attached to Cirencester College, where I used superphosphate on a piece of ground which did not yield so much as another piece where none had been used; but I took the precaution to try the manure in a third place, and here the yield was three times as much as on that which had not been manured. The fact is that on clay land superphosphates are of no use unless the land is properly pulverised. Some farmers imagine that by using in the land the best artificial manures, they do not require so much labour, or any additional labour. There can be no greater mistake; for the best artificial manures often fail, more or less, entirely for want of proper pulverisation of the soil. It is of the greatest consequence that the land on which artificial manures are used should be in a high state of subdivision. Artificial can only be used with advantage by farmers who have improved agricultural implements and methods of tillage, and paid a great deal more of attention to the mechanical condition of the land than many farmers of the old school. If a farmer has not sufficient skill to manage a farm on improved principles throughout, the mere use of artificials will help him comparatively little, and he will perhaps do better to stick to farm-yard manure under such circumstances."

**TOBACCO DUST FOR INSECTS.**—It is not a little singular that the very plant the genus *Homo* should take such a special liking to, is also the plant to destroy a vast number of insects. Yet so it is, and it is quite probable that tobacco alone, in one form or another, is sufficient to destroy a large quantity of the insects injurious to vegetation, if it can only be well applied. For our present purpose it requires to be dust, which can be got at the tobacconist's for a dollar or two per barrel, if applied for some time before the season of wanting it. Generally speaking, it is a good deal too coarse, and therein consists its failure as often applied. What is wanting is some kind of a mill to reduce it to powder, but in the absence of this a substitute consists in drying it quite crisp, and pounding or rubbing it small. A sieve is then needed, of a very fine mesh, to apply it to the plants, choosing the morning for doing it, putting no more on than is necessary to lay a fine dust on the foliage. While this is on, no fly will attack them. But as a strong wind or shower will scatter it all off, the dose must be repeated until the plants are out of danger. Herein consists the advantage of using just enough for the purpose, as the continued application in quantity is injurious to the plants. While in the seed bed, the trouble of application is not much, and we hesitate not to say, that any person can secure plants by following the above method.

**AN INDIAN CORN HARVESTER.**—A model of a machine that has been tested, for cutting Indian corn, was exhibited by Mr. Coates, of Philadelphia, by which eight acres a day can be cut and left in gavels, by a man and two horses. The machine appears as well contrived for the purpose for which it is designed as the mowers or reapers for their respective purposes. It will greatly facilitate the business of raising corn at the West, and lighten a branch of the labor that requires men with strong arms.

**THE AMERICAN ELK DOMESTICATED.**—Mr. Lorenzo Stratton, of Little Valley, has been experimenting, for a few years past, with a view to test the practicability of domesticating the Elk; and for this purpose enclosed a tract of very hilly land, well wooded, for ranging and browsing. His animals are so amiable that he has driven several of them to the three last Fairs of Cattaraugus county, without difficulty, where they attracted great attention. The success attending Mr. Stratton's experiments, thus far, certainly argues well for more extended efforts.