

ADVENTURES OF AN ACORN.*

The following lines were written by a Scotch horticulturist, to illustrate how curiously seeds are sometimes scattered over the earth. The story in this case is literally true, and what makes the circumstance the more interesting to Scotch botanists, is the fact that the oak thus strangely introduced into that country is of a kind different from any hitherto growing there:

In the far off wilds of Canadian woods,
Where the red man lives and dies—
Where the wild turkey hatches and rears her broods
Unseen to the white man's eyes—
There fell to the shot of a gun one day,
To the sportsman a glorious prize,
A turkey, whose flight lay over his way,
A bird of a royal size.

This turkey was sent to old Scotia's shore,
As a Christmas treat to a brother,
And never on Christmas heard before,
Had the Scotsman seen such another.
And deep in the "erop" of the bird he found
(Now here is the pith of the story)
A seed of a tree whose name is a sound
Of renown in old England's glory.

The acorn was planted in mother earth,
And soon to new life awoke,
And fresh from the ground there issued forth
A sapling of royal oak.
Now wise men all, I pray you please,
To mark the curious ways
By which the seeds of plants and trees
Are scattered in our days.

*These lines, by "Patriarch Peter" penned,
My less romantic tale amend. W. M.

DISCOVERY OF EXTENSIVE PINE FORESTS.—The recent exploration party of Colonel Mercer up the Spanish River, in the province of Ontario, is said to have discovered vast pine forests, containing upward of 24,000,000,000 feet of a superior quality of pine lumber, with facilities for getting it to market equal to the best.

KEEPING APPLES.—G. F. Newton, in a paper read before the Ohio Horticultural Society, describes an experiment in keeping apples, by which he had Tompkins King with fresh flavor and bright color in April, and Rambo and Peck's Pleasant in July. The secret of success was a constant low temperature. They were gathered in September, heaped on the barn floor till cold weather, carefully assorted, barreled, and kept in a cold cellar. The uniformly low temperature was preserved by opening the ventilators of the fruit-room in cold, and closing them in warmer weather.—*Country Gentleman.*

SHORTENING-IN THE PEACH.—Those who have made an actual trial with shortening in the shoots of the peach, do not find it to require the amount of labor which the inexperienced suppose necessary. A. C. Younglove, of Vine Valley, N. Y., shortens back his orchard of 600 trees, performing the work expeditiously, and he finds it profitable, greatly improving the fruit. In answer to the frequent inquiry as to the best time for performing the work, late summer and early spring may be given. If done late in autumn the trees are made tenderer for withstanding the cold winter. If done before the leaves drop and while there is still some growth, the wood ripens well and is prepared for the cold.—*Country Gentleman.*

PRESERVING AND MARKETING—OVER PRODUCTION.—If any one will take the trouble to look into the facts about the comparative price of the different kinds of fruit grown in this country they will see how foolish is the idea that the country is in danger of being overstocked. The price of apples, peaches, pears, strawberries, grapes, etc., for forty years, dividing that time into four periods of ten years each, and statistics show that on an average the price of fruit has constantly increased. In strawberries and other small fruits this has been very marked. Production has grown rapidly in that time, but prices have constantly advanced. Occasionally we have a year of great abundance of apples, and prices are low. But farmers generally do not seem to have realized yet that the surplus in apples may be very profitably utilized in fattening both hogs and cattle. The best of meat may be made with a little corn and plenty of apple food. In older countries it is well known that this kind of feed cooked and mixed with ground grain is very healthful for all kinds of stock, and it is doubted that hogs would have the disease known as cholera if fed this kind of ration frequently. So we see that in years of abundance the surplus fruit, when the price is low, may be profitably fed to stock, and thus we may realize a good price for it. There is no danger of planting too many orchards, or of getting too much fruit.—*Indiana Farmer.*