

## **MR. FRANCIS MOSS'S GARDEN, BUNINYONG.**

Among those who have devoted their energies to horticultural pursuits in Victoria none are more deserving of credit for skill and perseverance than Mr. Francis Moss, who by unceasing care and application, extending over a great number of years, has succeeded in establishing one of the finest commercial gardens in the colony. About 23 years ago, Mr. Moss settled at Buninyong with the intention of growing produce for market, and ever since he has been actively engaged in gardening. The oldest established portion of the ground, upon which the proprietor resides, known as Mosmont, is beautifully situated in Warrenheip-street, a little more than half a mile from the town of Buninyong. It contains 14 acres, the greater portion being devoted to orchard purposes, but a considerable extent has been laid out as a pleasure garden and planted with a great variety of ornamental trees, ahruba, and flowering plants. For several years after the place was first established the cultivation of vegetables was the principal pursuit, but gradually this gave place to fruit-growing, and the propagation of young trees, to which purposes the garden is at present chiefly devoted. The residence, a neat and commodious building, stands on an elevated portion of the ground, some distance back from the road, and is approached by a fine drive 200 yards long, with borders on either side. From the house charming views are obtained of Mount Buninyong, with the valley running along its base, towards the east, while on the south lies a magnificent sheet of water, formed by a dam constructed many years ago, for the Messrs. Learmonth, by Colonel Cotton. Conifers have been planted extensively in the borders flanking the drive and along the front boundary of the ground, and as the climate is peculiarly well-adapted to the growth of most of the species belonging to this class, many noble specimens are to be met with. Among the more prominent of these speci-

Among the more prominent of these specimens are—*Pinus insignis*, 40ft.; *Wellingtonia gigantea*, 20ft.; *Cedrus deodara*, and *C. atlantica*, 20ft.; *Taxodium sempervirens*, 25ft.; several plants of *Araucaria imbricata*, which seem to be thriving remarkably well, the largest ranging from 18ft. to 20ft. *Picea Nordmanniana* is represented by several fine specimens from 8ft. to 10ft. high, and there are

smaller but thriving plants of *P. cephalonica*, *P. balsamea*, *P. Pindrow*, *P. Webbiana*, *P. pectinata*, *P. Pinsapo*, *P. amabilis*, and *P. nobilis*. Among the *Abies* family, which, as well as the *Piceas*, seem to be thriving wonderfully, are specimens of *A. Smithiana*, 10ft.; *A. alba*, *A. excelsa*, *A. Douglasii*, and *A. Menziesii*, ranging in height from 4ft. to 6ft. *Cupressus macrocarpa* is represented by several fine specimens from 25ft. to 30ft. high, which were planted 15 years ago, and are now seeding freely. There are also handsome plants of *C. torulosa*, 15ft., *C. Lawsoniana*, 10ft., and *C. corneyana*, 15ft. high. The English yew (*Taxus baccata*) seems perfectly at home, one handsome specimen having attained the height of 10ft. Besides the conifers mentioned, there are also several fine specimens of other classes, including a magnificent tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), fully 20ft. high; a silver variegated holly, 15ft., loaded with berries; and other kinds equally vigorous. The horse-chestnut appears perfectly at home, and a couple of specimens about 15ft. in height are bearing a heavy crop of nuts, a number of young seedlings growing under the trees. Interspersed among the specimens are magnolias, pittosporums, yuccas, roses, lilioms, phloxes, gladioli, and many other plants, which give the borders a gay and varied appearance. In the immediate vicinity of the house are several beds filled with a choice collection of florists' and other flowers, which make a fine display. Among the more noticeable are daphnes, rhododendrons, camellias, &c., and a fine clump of *Lilium auratum* now coming into bloom, many of the flower-spikes ranging from 6ft. to 9ft. high. A creek runs through the lower portion of the garden, and here some noble specimens of deciduous

through the lower portion of the garden, and here some noble specimens of deciduous trees are to be found. All are in perfect health and vigour, and the variety of their foliage forms a beautiful contrast to the indigenous vegetation beyond them. They are planted rather thickly, their foliage forming a beautiful densely-shaded grove through which the rays of the sun cannot penetrate. Among the principal specimens are weeping willows 40ft. high, with trunks 2ft. in diameter; a fine horizontal elm fully 35ft., whose branches spread over a large area; sycamores, birchs, and silver poplars 30ft., English oaks over 35ft., English and American ashes from 25ft. to 30ft., planes and larches ranging from 15ft. to 20ft.

From the commencement Mr. Moss has paid special attention to fruit culture, and his orchard will compare favourably with any other in the colony. Owing to the high elevation of the district, and, as a consequence, its cool climate as compared with localities in the vicinity of Melbourne, the season of ripening is at least a month later. Consequently the earlier varieties, such as pay best around the metropolis, are not grown, as they would have to come into competition with the mid-season sorts of the earlier districts. The kinds that give the most profitable returns are those that come in afterwards, and these are the varieties chiefly grown. Owing to the coolness of the climate it has been found, after repeated trials and many disappointments, that the vine, peach, almond, nectarine, and apricot will not thrive; while, on the other hand, the smaller fruits, such as gooseberries and currants, flourish amazingly. Cherries and plums also thrive very well, but the basaltic soil is too light for apples and pears, though some sorts of both species do much better than others, and produce very fair crops. About two acres are under apple trees, some of which appear healthy and vigorous, but a great many are not thriving well. The kinds that are doing well are—Emperor Alexander, Margaret, Lord Suffield, Keswick Codlin, Ribston Pippin, King of the Pippins, Braddick's Nonpareil, Scarlet Nonpareil, Grange's Pearmain, Golden Reinette, Reinette du Canada, Dumelow's Seedling, and Rymer. Prince Bismarck, a seedling variety raised by Mr. Clarkson of Carisbrook, also does very well, and is held in great esteem by Mr. Moss, who believes it will become a very popular kind. The Stone

in great esteem by Mr. Moss, who believes it will become a very popular kind. The Stone Pippin and many other of the later kinds do not thrive well, and produce little fruit. Mr. Moss's collection of apples numbers altogether about 500 varieties, many of them being newly introduced kinds, which are worked on experimental trees, and only a few have fruited as yet. For some years past Mr. Moss has been importing new varieties, and last year he received a large number of young trees and scions from Messrs. Scott, of Merriott, Somerset. Most of the trees were unfortunately dead when they arrived, but, strange to say, scions of the same kinds, which came to hand in March, were in nearly every instance sound, and being budded immediately, the varieties were saved, and are now growing as freely as the other sorts. Among them are a number of American sorts reputed to be valuable, viz., Ailes, American Golden Pippin, Chandler, Cogswell, Domine, Fallawater, King of Tomkins County, Lady's Street, Monmoth Pippin, Newtown, Spitzenberg, Twenty Ounce, Westfield Seek no Further, Wagner, White Winter Pearmain, Willow Twig, and Winesop. Of English varieties only two were saved, viz., Kentish Fillbasket (the variety known as such in the colony being, in the opinion of Mr. Moss, incorrectly named) and Miner's Dumpling, a very long keeping sort. Pears are grown largely, but many of the kinds are very much affected by the black spot this season. The most profitable varieties are the Jargonelle, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Doyenné Boussock, Durandean, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Forelle, Vicar of Winkfield, Winter Nelis, and Josephine de Malines. The collection of pears altogether includes about 150 varieties, many of them newly introduced, and not as yet proved. Cherries thrive admirably, and a large quantity are grown, mostly of the later kinds, which ripen about the holidays and command a ready sale at good prices. The principal sorts grown are Bigarreau Gros Cœur, Bigarreau d'Hollande, Bigarreau Napoleon, St. Margaret's, and Florence. Of Bigarreau d'Holland there are about 1,000 fruiting trees, St. Margaret's 600, Florence 100, and the other sorts in smaller numbers. They have borne an enormous crop of fruit this season, the greater portion of which has been sent to the Melbourne market. There are a large number of plums, the collection embracing about 120 varieties: many are however only

number of plums, the collection embracing about 120 varieties; many are, however, only under trial. The kinds that have succeeded best are, Rivers's Early Prolific, Diamond, Angelina Burdett, Mitchelson's, Kirk's, Washington, Jefferson, Reine Claude de Bavay, Coo's Golden Drop, and Pond's Seedling. A new variety, Automne de Schamal, which produces a large quantity of fine fruit of superior quality very late in the season, is also, in the opinion of Mr. Moss, likely to prove most valuable. Gooseberries are grown upon an extensive scale, both soil and climate suiting them admirably. Some of the bushes are enormous specimens, spreading out 9ft. or 10ft., and several of them have yielded over 50 quarts each this season. They are all of one variety, which has been grown about Buninyong for over 40 years, having been introduced from Tasmania by Mr. J. P. Fawcner. The collection includes about 120 named varieties, but only a limited number have proved valuable for market purposes as yet, though many have fine showy fruit. The sorts

most commonly grown and which are found to answer best are, for early crop, Lord Crew and Rockwood; main crop, Crown Bob, Roaring Lion, Whitesmith, Green Overall, and Leveller; late kinds, Warrington, Billy Dean, and White Lion. Both red and white currants do as well as the gooseberries, producing enormous crops of fruit, both bunches and berries being very large. Several varieties are grown, one of the best being La Versailles, a red sort, which has been cultivated for 14 years and never missed a crop. A new plantation of this kind, numbering about 1,000 bushes, was planted last year, and has borne well this season. Mr. Moss has raised a number of seedlings from this variety, some of the more promising being selected for further trial. The Ruby Castle is a good bearing late sort, which Mr. Moss considers worth keeping, but most other kinds are, in his opinion, of little value. The White Dutch has proved the best of its class, producing immense crops and very fine fruit. For black currants the soil is rather too dry, though they bear well while the plants are young. Several varieties are grown, but the best of the lot is one known as Kentish Hero which produces an abun-

GROWN, BUT THE BEST OF THE LOT IS ONE KNOWN AS Kentish Hero, which produces an abundance of foliage, has short-jointed wood, bears freely, and has large fruit. The Black Naples has the largest fruit, but does not bear well, and suffers much from the hot weather. About three years since, a plantation of nuts was made, which have done exceedingly well, and Mr. Moss is sanguine that they will be a great success. Several varieties were planted, of which the Red Filbert, Casford, Nottingham Prolific, and Riddell's Cob (a colonial sort raised by Mr. H. Riddell, of Clarendon) are all bearing freely this season. There are also several walnut and chesnut trees, which seem to be doing remarkably well and are making vigorous growth.

A large quantity of nursery stock is grown, principally apples, currants, and gooseberries. An immense number of apple trees are worked every season, the stocks used being Northern Spy, Winter Majetin, and the Irish Peach. The trees are a fine healthy lot, and all that could be desired as regards growth. Most of the nursery stock is growing upon a block of land about a quarter of a mile from the older garden, which has been purchased recently. A never-failing stream runs through the property, and the water can be distributed over any portion of the ground at pleasure. This is a great advantage to the young trees, as their growth is never checked by dry weather. Ample provision is made to prevent the soil from becoming saturated with water by nearly a mile of covered drains. A portion of the old creek-bed has been planted with a collection of rhododendrons, numbering about 90 of the best named sorts, which are growing very freely and promise to be a great success. Last season Mr. Moss purchased another piece of land, containing 17 acres, which is separated from the nursery ground by a road, the creek previously mentioned running through it. The soil is similar to that in the nursery, viz., a sandy loam resting on a clay bottom, and Mr. Moss is sanguine that apples will do well upon this land. Seven acres have been planted with young apple-trees, mostly late-keeping sorts, and it is intended to fill the remainder of the ground next season. Though the season has been a very trying one, the young trees have done well, and made a fair amount of growth.

well, and made a fair amount of growth. Around the boundaries a belt of quick growing trees has been planted for shelter, which seems to be doing very well. It is Mr. Moss's intention to construct a reservoir on the upper portion of the ground, to be supplied by the stream, so that the water can at pleasure be turned on to every row of trees in dry weather. In conclusion, we may state that every portion of the ground is kept in beautiful order, scarcely a weed is to seen, and the whole place has a trim and orderly appearance. Everything appears to be done systematically, and the judgment, skill, and energy displayed in the management by the proprietor deserve the highest commendation.