

besides many varieties said to exist in China, Downing describes, in the United States, seventy-nine native and imported varieties of the peach; and a few years ago Lindley<sup>57</sup> enumerated one hundred and sixty-four varieties of the peach and nectarine grown in England. I have already indicated the chief points of difference between the several varieties. Nectarines, even when produced from distinct kinds of peaches, always possess their own peculiar flavour, and are smooth and small. Clingstone and freestone peaches, which differ in the ripe flesh either firmly adhering to the stone, or easily separating from it, also differ in the character of the stone itself; that of the freestones or melters being more deeply fissured, with the sides of the fissures smoother than in clingstones. In the various kinds the flowers differ not only in size, but in the larger flowers the petals are differently shaped, more imbricated, generally red in the centre and pale towards the margin: whereas in the smaller flowers the margin of the petal are usually more darkly coloured. One variety has nearly white flowers. The leaves are more or less serrated, and are either destitute of glands, or have globose or reniform glands;<sup>58</sup> and some few peaches, such as the Bruggen, bear on the same tree both globular and kidney-shaped glands.<sup>59</sup> According to Robertson<sup>60</sup> the trees with glandular leaves are liable to blister, but not in any great degree to mildew; whilst the non-glandular trees are more subject to curl, to mildew, and to the attacks of aphides. The varieties differ in the period of their maturity, in the fruit keeping well, and in hardiness,—the latter circumstance being especially attended to in the United States. Certain varieties, such as the Bellegarde, stand forcing in hot-houses better than other varieties. The flat-peach of China is the most remarkable of all the varieties, it is so much depressed towards the summit, that the stone is here covered only by roughened skin and not by a fleshy layer.<sup>61</sup> Another Chinese variety, called the Honey-peach, is remarkable from the fruit terminating in a long sharp point; its leaves are glandless and widely dentate.<sup>62</sup> The Emperor of Russia peach is a third singular variety, having deeply double-serrated leaves; the fruit is deeply cleft with one-half projecting considerably beyond the other: it originated in America, and its seedlings inherit similiar leaves.<sup>63</sup>

The peach has also produced in China a small class of trees valued for ornament, namely the double-flowered; of these, five

<sup>57</sup> 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. v. p. 554. See also Carrière, 'Description et Class. des Variétés de Pêchers.'

<sup>58</sup> 'Loudon's 'Encyclop. of Gardening,' p. 907.

<sup>59</sup> M. Carrière, in 'Gard. Chron.,' 1865, p. 1154.

<sup>60</sup> 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. iii. p. 332. See also 'Gardener's Chronicle,'

1865, p. 271, to same effect. Also 'Journal of Horticulture,' Sept. 26th, 1865, p. 254.

<sup>61</sup> 'Transact. Hort. Soc.' vol. iv. p. 512.

<sup>62</sup> 'Journal of Horticulture,' Sept. 8th, 1853, p. 188.

<sup>63</sup> 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. vi. p. 412.