

being so much like that of the leaves, or to the fruit always appearing from a distance unripe," is not so readily attacked by birds as other sorts. The yellow-fruited raspberry, which generally comes nearly true by seed, "is very little molested by birds, who evidently are not fond of it; so that nets may be dispensed with in places where nothing else will protect the red fruit."²⁴ This immunity, though a benefit to the gardener, would be a disadvantage in a state of nature both to the cherry and raspberry, as dissemination depends on birds. I noticed during several winters that some trees of the yellow-berried holly, which were raised from seed from a tree found wild by my father remained covered with fruit, whilst not a scarlet berry could be seen on the adjoining trees of the common kind. A friend informs me that a mountain-ash (*Pyrus aucuparia*) growing in his garden bears berries which, though not differently coloured, are always devoured by birds before those on the other trees. This variety of the mountain-ash would thus be more freely disseminated, and the yellow-berried variety of the holly less freely, than the common varieties of these two trees.

Independently of colour, trifling differences are sometimes found to be of importance to plants under cultivation, and would be of paramount importance if they had to fight their own battle and to struggle with many competitors. The thin-shelled peas, called *pois sans parchemin*, are attacked by birds²⁵ much more commonly than ordinary peas. On the other hand, the purple-podded pea, which has a hard shell, escaped the attacks of tomtits (*Parus major*) in my garden far better than any other kind. The thin-shelled walnut likewise suffers greatly from the tomtit.²⁶ These same birds have been observed to pass over and thus favour the filbert, destroying only the other kinds of nuts which grew in the same orchard.²⁷

Certain varieties of the pear have soft bark, and these suffer severely from wood-boring beetles; whilst other

²⁴ 'Transact. Hort. Soc,' vol. 1. 2nd series, 1835, p. 275. For raspberries, see 'Gard. Chronicle,' 1855, p. 154, and 1863, p. 245.

²⁵ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1843, p. 806.

²⁶ Ibid., 1850, p. 732.

²⁷ Ibid., 1860, p. 956.