

of the orange as extremely sensitive to cold, and as much tenderer than certain other varieties.

The peach was known to Theophrastus, 322 B.C.⁶⁴ According to the authorities quoted by Dr. F. Rolle,⁶⁵ it was tender when first introduced into Greece, and even in the island of Rhodes only occasionally bore fruit. If this be correct, the peach, in spreading during the last two thousand years over the middle parts of Europe, must have become much hardier. At the present day different varieties differ much in hardiness: some French varieties will not succeed in England; and near Paris, the *Pavie de Bonneuil* does not ripen its fruit till very late in the season, even when grown on a wall; "it is, therefore, only fit for a very hot southern climate."⁶⁶

I will briefly give a few other cases. A variety of *Magnolia grandiflora*, raised by M. Roy, withstands a temperature several degrees lower than that which any other variety can resist. With camellias there is much difference in hardiness. One particular variety of the Noisette rose withstood the severe frost of 1860 "un-touched and hale amidst a universal destruction of other Noisettes." In New York the "Irish yew is quite hardy, but the common yew is liable to be cut down." I may add that there are varieties of the sweet potato (*Convolvulus batatas*) which are suited for warmer, as well as for colder, climates.⁶⁷

The plants as yet mentioned have been found capable of resisting an unusual degree of cold or heat, when fully grown. The following cases refer to plants whilst young. In a large bed of young *Araucarias* of the same age, growing close together and equally exposed, it was observed,⁶⁸ after the unusually severe winter of 1860-61, that, "in the midst of the dying, numerous individuals remained on which the frost had absolutely made no kind of impression." Dr. Lindley, after alluding to this and other similar cases, remarks, "Among the lessons which the late formidable winter has taught us, is that, even in their power of resisting cold, individuals of the same species of plants are remarkably different." Near Salisbury, there was a sharp frost on the night of May 24th, 1836, and all the French

⁶⁴ Alph. de Candolle, 'Géograph. Bot.,' p. 882.

⁶⁵ 'Ch. Darwin's Lehre von der Entstehung,' &c., 1862, s. 87.

⁶⁶ Decaisne, quoted in 'Gard. Chronicle,' 1865, p. 271.

⁶⁷ For the magnolia, see Loudon's 'Gard. Mag.,' vol. xiii., 1837, p. 21.

For camellias and roses, see 'Gard. Chron.,' 1860, p. 384. For the yew, 'Journal of Hort.,' March 3rd, 1863, p. 174. For sweet potatoes, see Col. von Siebold, in 'Gard. Chron.,' 1855, p. 822.

⁶⁸ The Editor, 'Gard. Chron.,' 1861, p. 239.