

varieties are known to resist their attacks much better.²⁸ In North America the smoothness, or absence of down on the fruit, makes a great difference in the attacks of the weevil, "which is the uncompromising foe of all smooth stone-fruits;" and the cultivator "has the frequent mortification of seeing nearly all, or indeed often the whole crop, fall from the trees when half or two-thirds grown." Hence the nectarine suffers more than the peach. A particular variety of the Morello cherry, raised in North America, is, without any assignable cause, more liable to be injured by this same insect than other cherry-trees.²⁹ From some unknown cause, certain varieties of the apple enjoy, as we have seen, the great advantage in various parts of the world of not being infested by the coccus. On the other hand, a particular case has been recorded in which aphides confined themselves to the Winter Nelis pear and touched no other kind in an extensive orchard.³⁰ The existence of minute glands on the leaves of peaches, nectarines, and apricots, would not be esteemed by botanists as a character of the least importance, for they are present or absent in closely-related sub-varieties, descended from the same parent-tree; yet there is good evidence³¹ that the absence of glands leads to mildew, which is highly injurious to these trees.

A difference either in flavour or in the amount of nutriment in certain varieties causes them to be more eagerly attacked by various enemies than other varieties of the same species. Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*) injure our fruit-trees by devouring the flower-buds, and a pair of these birds have been seen "to denude a large plum-tree in a couple of days of almost every bud;" but certain varieties³² of the apple and thorn (*Cratægus oxyacantha*) are more especially liable to be attacked. A striking instance of this was observed in Mr. Rivers's garden, in which two rows of a particular

²⁸ J. De Jonghe, in 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1860, p. 120.

²⁹ Downing, 'Fruit-trees of North America,' pp. 266, 501: in regard to the cherry, p. 198.

³⁰ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1849, p. 755.

³¹ 'Journal of Horticulture,' Sept. 26th, 1865, p. 254; see other references given in chap. x.

³² Mr. Selby, in 'Mag. of Zoology and Botany,' Edinburgh, vol. ii., 1838; p. 393.