

centre to which the partitions which separate the cells are attached ; but this is not to be met with in the Follicle. The varieties of the capsule depend upon the number of cells into which it is divided ; the number of seeds it contains ; the manner in which it bursts if at the top, bottom or sides. Examples of this species of seed vessels are to be found in the Bell flower and in the *Convolvulus*, &c. &c. &c.

4th. The next species of seed vessel to be noticed is the *Nut*. This is when the seeds are enclosed in a hard woody shell as in the *Hazel* and *Oak*, &c. in which case they are termed kernels. The varieties of the nut depend upon the degree of hardness of the shell, the number of sides it presents, and also the number of kernels it contains. We sometimes find the nut surrounded by a thick succulent substance as in the cherry, in which case it is called a stone ; and some writers have chosen to describe this as a distinct species, but this is unnecessary as the true seed vessel is the nut or vessel contained within the pulp.

5th. The *Berry*.—This is characterised as being a mass of pulp enclosing the seeds without any regular form or arrangement. In some instances it is divided into cells by partitions running through it, and the varieties are marked by the number of these partitions and other minute circumstances, such as the number of seeds, &c.

6th. The sixth species of seed vessel is the *Apple* consisting of a fleshy mass containing a regular capsule for the seeds in the heart of it. The varieties of this kind depend upon the external figure whether round or long, and on the substance composing the mass, whether fleshy or of a mealy nature.

7th. The last species of seed vessel we shall notice here is known by the name of *Pumpkin*, an example of which is met with in the cucumber, melon, &c. It is a hollow succulent fruit with the seeds attached to the inside of its rind. The varieties here are characterised by the number of cells into which it is divided, and by the nature of the substance it is composed of.

Besides the above enumerated descriptions of seed vessels, and which appear to include all the principal species, some authors have added another under the name of the *winged fruit*. This species they have described as having a thin transparent membrane affixed to some part of the seed vessels, which acts as a sail and assists in the disseminating the seeds. Examples of this are to be seen in the seeds of the maple and ash ; and many others. From this appendage being met with in many seed vessels which may with propriety be classed as belonging to some of the kinds above mentioned ; it ought in a description of a plant where it is found to be noticed ; but it cannot be considered as a distinguishing mark for a species. From what has been said it will be obvious that what is termed the seed vessel of Plants, is the same as known by the term *Fruit*. This part contains many virtues, is essentially necessary for propagating the vegetable tribes, a more particular account of its uses will be detailed hereafter.