

## RED CEDAR.

*JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA. J. foliis ternis, basi adnatis, junioribus imbricatis, senioribus patulis.*

THE Red Cedar, which belongs to the Junipers, is the most common species of its genus in the United States, and the only one which attains such dimensions as to be useful in the arts. Next to that which grows in Bermuda, it is the largest hitherto discovered. According to my father's observations on the topography of American plants, Cedar Island, in Lake Champlain, nearly opposite to Burlington, in latitude  $44^{\circ} 25'$ , may be assumed as one of the remotest points at which it is found towards the north. Eastward, on the border of the sea, I have not seen it beyond Wiscasset, a small town of the District of Maine, at the mouth of the Kennebeck, and in nearly the same latitude with Burlington. From Wiscasset it spreads without interruption to the Cape of Florida, and thence round the Gulf of Mexico to a distance beyond St. Bernard's Bay; an extent of more than 3,000 miles. In retiring from the shore, it becomes gradually less common and less vigorous, and in Virginia and the more Southern States it is rare at the point where the tide ceases to flow in the rivers; further inland it is seen only in the form of a shrub in open, dry, sandy places. In the Western States it is confined to spots where the calcareous rock shows itself naked, or is so thinly covered with mould as to forbid the vegetation of other trees.

Though the Red Cedar grows naturally in the District of Maine, and on some of the islands of Lake Champlain, it is repressed by a winter as intense as that of the north of Germany, and develops itself less vigorously than in Virginia, and further south, where the soil and climate are favorable to its expansion and to the perfection of its wood. Upon the downs it is usually buried in the sand cast up by the waves, except the summit of the branches, which appear like young trees above the surface. When unincumbered with sand, as in the middle of the islands and on the borders of the narrow sounds that flow between them and the main, it is 40 or 45 feet in height and 12 or 13 inches in diameter; but it would be difficult at present to find stocks of this size north-eastward of the river St. Mary within the ancient limits of the United States.

The foliage is evergreen, numerously subdivided, and composed of small