

Arabic *narang*. In the Latin of the 13th century this last is represented by *arangia*. Merchants and others speedily satisfied their common sense that this *arangia* might with greater propriety be *orangia*, a word conveyiug, by the sound of its first syllable at all events, the idea of a golden-coloured object.—In passing down the Rhone the traveller is interested in beholding, stretched along its left bank, the ancient city of Orange, the place from which the Counts of Nassau, early in the 16th century, by virtue of alliances by marriage, added to themselves the title of Counts of Orange. But here, in this local Orange, the vernacularizing process has taken effect, not upon the Persian or Arabic name of a fruit, but upon the Latinized name of an old Celtic city, Arausio. Out of the coalescence of these two separate vernacularisms into one has arisen the name of a third thing, viz., of a colour destined to hand on to the present day and to far continents a specimen of the power over the unreasoning many, of association in relation to the hue of a riband or a flag; a study by the aid of which, as by that of some minute fossil of a by-gone era, we can the more easily realize the proceedings of the factions of the Hippodrome and the feudal strifes within the mediæval cities. The modernized local name of Orange on the Rhone had, very probably, its weight with the French traders in the Levant when they converted the Arabic *narang* into a word of more vernacular sound.—The *aurea mala* of the Hesperides are now interpreted to have been simply oranges, which, when very rare, were regarded as rather mysterious curiosities, just as the eggs of Ostriches used to be. In the time of Friar Jordanus (circa 1330), the orange was not known in Southern Europe. He describes those he saw in India as “lemons sweet as sugar.” (Vide his *Mirabilia*, p. 15.)

A species of pear is familiarly known among us as the *bon-crétien*, “the good Christian;” a singular name for a fruit. It is a French vernacularism for the Greek word *panchresta*. The *poire panchresta* means “the unexceptionable, every-way excellent pear.”—Again, the apple called the *rennet* bears in reality also a French name; but we have compelled it to sound English. It is properly *rainette*, “the apple mottled like a frog.”—The *genneting*, or as Lord Bacon gives it, the *geniting*, is a departure from either *June-eating* or *St. Jean-eating*; if it be not, as has been suggested, the Scottish family name *Janeton*.—A fruit not much heard of among us is the *medlar*; but its name is not unfamiliar, through a proverbial reference to the fact that it is only then fit to eat when it is in a state of decomposition.