

is cut about the edges into several large segments, as in the common mallow. A serrated leaf hath edges divided like the teeth of a saw, as in the nettle, &c. A crenated leaf is that which is cut about the edges into several obtuse segments, as in betony, &c. A lacinated leaf is that which is cut about the edges into jags or deep portions, in an irregular manner, as in the horned poppy, &c.

The leaves are protruded from the stalk or stem by the great quantities of vernal sap, in the form of a gem or bud, wherein they lie curiously folded in plaits, and separated from each other by a fine pellicle or membrane. The sap arising now in great abundance, enters and fills the vessels of the tender leaf; this causes it to expand and extend itself quickly to its just or designed limits of growth. The afflux and reflux of the nutritious juices by the foot stalk of the leaf continuing a while, at length abates and declines, the juices then in the leaf begin to stagnate and grow putrid, whence a consumption ensues, and the leaf dies, which is the cause of the falling of the leaves in autumn.

The flower is that part of a plant whose curious form, charming fragrance, and beauteous colors so delight our senses. This is certainly the most choice and delicate part of vegetables. A perfect flower is said to have the following parts: (1) The empalement, calix, or flower cup; this is that exterior part which encloseth the lower part of the flower, and is therefore also called the perianthum; its use is to strengthen and preserve the flower. (2) The petala or tender fine colored leaves, which are generally the most conspicuous part of the flower; this is also called the foliature. (3) The stamina or chives, which are those fine upright stems which stand immediately within the foliature, and in many plants they arise from the petala or flower leaves. (4) The apices or summits, which grow on the top of the chives in the form of seeds, and contain a fine powder or dust called the farina or meal of the flower. (5) The stylus or pistil, which stands in the middle, within the chives, whose top is sometimes above, but generally below the apices, and grows on. (6) The matrix or ovary, or seed case, in which the seed (in most plants) is contained and nourished in its embryo state; and this part is generally the rudiment of the fruit. The flowers which want any of these parts are reckoned imperfect ones.