

Trees with variegated foliage make a very beautiful appearance in a piece of shrubbery or on the open lawn. We have several very desirable plants of this description more or less known to horticulturists in this country, such as the Golden-spotted-leaved Ash, of which there are two good varieties: the variegated-leaved Horse-chestnut and the golden-leaved Maple. Many beautiful variegated trees much prized in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, cannot be grown here because of the severity of our winters. We give herewith, however, a beautiful engraving of the Variegated Maple, (*Acer Negundo*, fol. var.) which we are inclined to think would be a valuable acquisition to the ornamental gardens in this country. It belongs to the species known as the Ash-leaved Maple. As this family of trees is capable of enduring the most intense cold, no fear need be entertained on this score. We do not know if this Maple has been introduced among the nurserymen on this continent, but it is highly recommended in European catalogues, and from the enlarged specimens of foliage on either side of the engraving, it can plainly be seen that it is a very beautiful tree. We may add that our engraving was copied from a photographic picture of a tree in a German garden.

### Rockwork.

A good imitation of natural rocks is one of the most difficult operations which fall to the lot of the landscape gardener to execute; and hence very few passable specimens are to be met with, although there are few places where what is called rockwork is not to be found. Not only is the disposal of the material in these badly arranged, but the materials themselves are of the most incongruous and unnatural character—fragments of sculpture, shells, petrifications, vitrified bricks, clinkers, architectural remains, &c., are huddled together in delightful confusion. One of the best specimens of rockwork we have seen is that constructed at Chatsworth as a screen for separating the dressed grounds from the great conservatory. It represents a piece of Alpine scenery, and seems as if the whole mass of rocks had been hurled down from above by some volcanic eruption, and left in its present very natural condition, very similar to what we so often see at the base of hills in most Alpine countries. One great advantage Sir Joseph Paxton had was material natural to the spot, and these he very wisely availed himself of; and now that the softening effects of time have clothed it with natural vegetation, it would take a pretty good geologist to detect the imitation of nature. The other instance is of a very different character—namely, the panoramic rockwork at Hooole House, near Chester,



THE VARIEGATED MAPLE.

where the object was to show Alpine scenery of great magnificence, as it were, by model. The design is taken from a model of mountains of Savoy, with the Valley of the Chamouni and the "Mer de Glace" forming the highest pinnacle of it. The latter is constructed of grey limestone, quartz, and spar; and the spaces, which in ordinary rockwork are filled with plants, are in this case filled with broken fragments of white marble, to look like snow, and the spar is intended to represent the glacier. The highest part of this mimic rockwork is thirty-four feet above the level of the lawn. The place being only a villa residence, this rockery was intended to act both as affording shelter and privacy—the latter a matter of no small importance where the grounds are so situated as to be overlooked by one's neighbours. It also forms an effective screen both during summer and winter, better than any other means that under the circumstances could have been adopted.

There are two leading objects to be kept in view in the construction of artificial rockwork. One is an imitation of the surface, broken and disturbed, and intermingled with Alpine vegetation; the other an imitation of the natural stratification of some particular section of rock geologically arranged. The rockwork which most usually occurs in park scenery (we do not here refer to it as entering into combination with other objects in flower gardens) is by the sides of the approach where cuttings have to be made through rocky strata. Than this nothing is more simply accomplished, as all that is required is to bare the natural rock so as to bring into view pieces of its most perfect formation, to cover the spaces between with turf or creeping plants, and with a few stunted

bushes of birch, or such other tree as is indigenous to the spot. Care must be taken that no tool-marks be left visible on the rock, and that all traces of art be obliterated, leaving the whole as if it had been a natural opening through which the road has been taken. Lay bare prominent pieces of natural rock here and there in dingles and banks near which walks or drives pass, so as to bring them into contrast with the vegetation that surrounds them, and plant with creeping plants bare and harsh lines that may have been formed by quarrying, landslips, &c. Artificial rockwork may be sometimes employed to hide objects not wished to be seen, and where the space is not sufficiently broad as to admit of this being effected by planting. By the edges of artificial lakes, and especially at their terminations, a few large boulders, scattered about as if they had been there since the glacier period, will be effective, and in a more combined form huge blocks of stone piled upon one another in the most careless manner may often greatly help in hiding the termination. Bold crags on the face of a

hill that may have become hidden by plantations, by being brought prominently into view, will relieve the monotonous appearance of a large mass of wood. To such points the eye of taste will return with the same feeling of pleasure that it does on looking at a painting where water is represented, or in a natural scene where it actually exists. The same degree of emotion is not excited when looking at a bald naked scar of barren soil, or even the *débris* which results from the disintegration of rocks and accumulates at their bottom.

One of the best artificial rockworks in England is that which is constructed at the Colosseum, Regent's Park, London, composed of immense blocks of Portland stone, many of them rich in fossil remains, and very naturally arranged, and slightly clothed with vegetation. Some good specimens occur in the grounds of Terregals, in Drmfriesshire, composed of useless stones, and covered with cement of a reddish colour, similar to the red sandstone of the locality. Now that the whole is softened down by the growth of lichens and discoloured by the action of the weather, the appearance is exceedingly natural, and such fantastic forms are produced as we see in the water-worn rocks at Crichup Linn, in the same county.—*Scottish Farmer*.

**BEST SOIL FOR GRAPES.**—In the opinion of the Ohio Pomological Society, a strong, clayey soil, or one of loamy clay with a limestone or slaty clay subsoil, will produce grapes of better quality and heavier in must than any variety of sand or alluvial deposits. It was also agreed that in all cases under-drainage is necessary to success in grape growing.