

Horticulture.

To the Editors of the Agriculturist.

ORNAMENTAL TREES.

GENTLEMEN.—The urgent calls of business prevented the enjoyment of the necessary leisure to make any communication in your last number. The omission was certainly of little consequence. But as you very flatteringly introduced my last remarks on transplanting fruit-trees, &c., to the notice of your readers, I am induced again to send you a few cursory observations, in the hope that they will at least be somewhat interesting, if not of much utility.

Horticulture, as distinguished from agriculture, is the cultivation of a limited spot, by manual labour chiefly, for culinary purposes. It is an art of great antiquity, having been the destined occupation of the original progenitor of the human race. In old countries, possessed of superabundant wealth, gardening is divided into numerous branches; for private use and enjoyment around the mansion; for public recreation in parks and promenades, in the vicinity of towns; for public instruction in botanic and experimental gardens; for public example in national or royal gardens; as a commercial pursuit, in market, orchard, seed, physic, florists', and nursery gardens.

In Canada, and other newly settled countries, gardening, as an art, is necessarily much more circumscribed in its range. A kitchen garden, for the production of a few vegetables useful in domestic economy, and in some cases a small orchard of fruit-trees, are all that is deemed necessary. These are also frequently managed in the most superficial manner. There are now, however, numerous exceptions to this, the general rule. A taste for the ornamental begins to develop itself, which will speedily yield pleasing results. It is becoming apparent to many that a dwelling-house or mansion, however elegant and substantial, lacks a great attraction when destitute of a surrounding lawn, tastefully and systematically planted with trees and shrubs. I would humbly but earnestly wish to stimulate an increasing interest in this matter. It cannot fail to prove a source of unspeakable pleasure to the owner of the soil, and to his family. It is a work of genuine patriotism, as evidencing the wealth and increasing greatness of the country. It exhibits strong proof of superior intellect and a refined taste. In a word, the man who plants some beautiful trees around his dwelling, raises a monument for himself that will endure, fresh and green, long after his mortal part shall have commingled with its kindred dust.

The transplanting season has expired for the present; still it will be of service, for future reference, to enumerate and briefly describe a few of the more popular hardy ornamental trees. Such as are here described are *deciduous*, that is, drop their leaves in autumn. In a subsequent number, I will, if acceptable, say a few words on evergreens. Hardy flowering shrubs will also claim a special notice. First in rank amongst ornamental trees stands the

Horse Chesnut (*Æsculus hippocastanum*), a lofty, regularly shaped, and magnificent tree; in spring, is covered with long spikes of white and pink flowers, of agreeable fragrance. It is admirably adapted for avenues, and also exceedingly picturesque as a single tree.

Linden or Lime Tree (*Tilia Europea*).—One of the most beautiful, graceful and fragrant trees; rises to a great height; has a rich foliage, and branches somewhat drooping or recurved. It is yet rare and scarce in this part of the world, but in Italy it has been esteemed for a shade tree from the remotest ages.

Large Double-flowering Cherry (*Cerasus communis pleno*).—Like cherry-trees generally, this is of elegant foliage and graceful form. When loaded, as it regularly is, with perfectly double white flowers, like roses, it attracts universal admiration.

The cherry is fertile in producing ornamental varieties. The Dwarf Double Flowering is of low growth, and produces handsome double flowers of a bluish colour. The Dwarf Weeping Cherry forms a dense, compact, globular head, with slender, pendulous, or weeping branches. The Large Weeping is quite new, grows to a large size, has strong, pendant branches, and bears a sweet, red fruit.

Chinese Abele, or Silver-leaved Poplar (*Populus auripila*).—A rapid grower, speedily attaining great bulk of timber and extent of branches; is esteemed mainly for its foliage, the upper side of the leaves being a dark glossy green, and underneath a downy white. When agitated by the wind, and glittering in the sun's rays, it is surpassingly beautiful.

European Mountain Ash (*Pyrus Aucuparia*).—Grows to a moderate size; has a clean, straight, erect stem, and a compact, round head; flowers abundantly in spring, but is attractive principally from the numerous clusters of small scarlet berries with which it is arrayed, when little else of the beautiful can be seen around.

The American Mountain Ash resembles the preceding, but is of more irregular habit, and has a coarser foliage and larger berries. For the sake of variety, it deserves a place in the pleasure-ground.

European Larch (*Larix Europea*).—Attains a great size, of a conical or pyramidal form, tapering in the most regular manner from the base to the top; has recently come into general and well merited repute.

English Hawthorn (*Mespilus Oxyacantha*).—Though of most importance as a hedge plant, when properly trained in the nursery for that purpose, may be beneficially introduced as a small sized tree. Natives of the British Isles need not be told that the flowers are of snowy whiteness and exquisite odour.

Two new varieties have recently been introduced—the scarlet flowering and double white. For some time to come the supply of these will be very limited, but they are worthy of being propagated in great numbers, as when better known, they will become universal favourites.

Locust.—There are three varieties of this tree in general repute. The Yellow Locust (*Robinia pseudo-Acacia*), when young, is a handsome tree,