

this is not the place to enter on a discussion of the question, we have adopted the practice most commonly followed and described the germ as a portion of the pointal.

The varieties of the *seed vessels* depend upon three circumstances, viz: their situation, their form and their contents.

The situation is described with respect to the impalement being either inclosed within it along with the other parts of the flower or placed below the impalement and of course on the outside of it. In a few rare instances we meet with the seed vessel standing on a foot-stalk of its own, independant of that which supports the flower, but this occurs but in a few plants. It is in this case called a *pedicelled* seed vessel; whereas without a foot-stalk it is said to be a sitting seed vessel.

The form of the seed vessel in general depends upon the figure of its contents. For the most part it is divided into cells each containing a definite number of seeds, but to this we find a great many exceptions; some account of which will be given when we come to speak of the seeds, or the composition and contents of the seed vessel, which forms the next part of the subject for consideration.

During the process of vegetation, (to be hereafter more minutely described,) the flowers wither and fall off and the germ or rudiments of the seed vessel, is converted into what in the language of Botany is called the *Pericarpium* or true seed vessel. This part presents a great variety in its appearance; and although the systematic arrangement of vegetables does not depend upon the shape of the seed vessels, this part of the study is not undeserving our attention; as on it depends the business of the seed's-man. This part of the science of Botany is moreover recommended to the attention of the juvenile student; from its being more liable to be over looked than that which details the more attractive descriptions of the flowers, or the more obvious characteristics of the leaves and branches, &c. Vegetables have been divided into two great classes whose distinguishing marks depend upon the seeds being enclosed in a seed vessel or not. The first of these are said to be plants with *covered seeds*, the second those with *naked seeds*. This division although in general correct is liable to some objection, for we find among the grasses, particularly, the seeds inclosed in a species of chaff or *gluma* which although obviously filling the place and answering the purpose of a seed vessel can only be considered as an imperfect one, and hence it may fairly be questioned whether such plants as have a chaff forming an imperfect covering for their seeds ought to be ranked among those which are naked or not.

Writers on this science have enumerated a great many different kinds of seed vessels, and noted a great many varieties and specific differences under each kind. Some have described eight, others thirteen, and perhaps more attentive investigations may discover many more. But a few of the most particular species whose differences are obvious to any beholder, require to be mentioned here. 1. The first species of seed vessel, is the Pod; which consists of two halves joined together and containing the seeds between them. By the