

are doubly compound, with oval-acuminate leaflets from 1 to 2 inches long. The leaflets are of a dull green, and in the fall the petiole is of a violet color.

The Coffee Tree belongs to the class *Diacia* of Linnæus, which includes all vegetables whose male and female flowers are borne by different plants; in which case those only that bear the female flowers produce fruit: to effect the fecundation, it is necessary that there should be male plants growing near them. The flowers and the fruit are large, bowed pods, of a reddish brown color, and of a pulpy consistency within. They contain several large, gray seeds, which are extremely hard. The French of Upper Louisiana call them *Gourgenes*.

The name of Coffee Tree was given to this vegetable by the early emigrants to Kentucky and Tennessee, who hoped to find in its seeds a substitute for coffee: but the small number of persons who made the experiment abandoned it, as soon as it became easy to obtain from the sea ports the coffee of the West Indies.

The wood of the Coffee Tree is very compact and of a rosy hue. The fineness and closeness of its grain fit it for cabinet-making, and its strength renders it proper for building. Like the Locust, it has the valuable property of rapidly converting its sap into perfect wood, so that a trunk 6 inches in diameter has only 6 lines of sap, and may be employed almost entire. These qualities recommend it for propagation in the forests of the north and of the centre of Europe.

The Coffee Tree was sent to France more than fifty years since. It thrives in the environs of Paris, where there are trees that exceed 40 feet in height; but it does not yield fruit, and is multiplied only by shoots obtained by digging trenches round the old trees. The divided roots produce shoots 3 or 4 feet long the first year. The young trees are sought on account of their beautiful foliage, for the embellishment of parks and picturesque gardens.

PLATE I.

A branch with flowers of the natural size. Fig. 1, A pod of the natural size. Fig. 2, A seed of the natural size.

[The Coffee tree thrives, as far north as Massachusetts. It requires a rich, deep, free soil, and when isolated, spreads over a large space, and is extremely beautiful.]