

catalogues of our nurserymen, and, with a very few exceptions, a hundred or so of species and varieties comprise the entire number of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees; yet, of this small number how many can be found in one collection? But if we take the catalogues of the European or Continental Nurserymen how does the contrast stand? Why, in one now before us, more than 1500 kinds of hardy trees and shrubs are enumerated, besides 500 hardy enough for the climate of Great Britain. Of one single species, the oak (*Quercus*) there are more than 100 kinds; of the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) 75 kinds; of the maple (*Acer*) 30 kinds; of the ash (*Fraxinus*) 30 kinds; the acacia (*Robinia*) 20 kinds; the horse-chestnut (*Æsculus* and *Pavia*) 30 kinds; the beech (*Fagus*) 17 kinds; the apple (*Malus*) 17 kinds; and so on. Of shrubs, 50 are species and varieties of spiræas; of currants (*Ribes*) 40; Philadelphus, 25; honeysuckle. (*Lonicera*) 25; Viburnum 20; Spindle Tree (*Eunonymus*) 12; plum (*Prunus*) 12; althea (*Hibiscus*) 12; dogwood (*Cornus*) 10, &c., &c.; while of the coniferous trees the number is immense, all adapted to some part of the United States, though a majority of them are too tender for the North. Yet of the really hardy sorts, there is quite enough to make a most agreeable variety around every country or suburban home. Why then such a repetition of the Norway spruce and arbor vitæ, everywhere? Where are the noble pines, the broad and magnificent cedars, and the giant spruces, whose summits tower above the highest temples?

Our interesting correspondent, the Rev. Mr. Gridley, in an article in the early part of the volume has alluded to the introduction of more variety, especially of evergreens, and pertinently inquires why we should rely so much upon the "inevitable balsam fir, and Norway spruce," when we might accomplish more by using also the numerous pines, junipers, arbor vitæ, &c., which give us more novel forms and shades of color." But the evergreens are not all that give us novel forms and shades of color. The deciduous trees and shrubs are quite as varied in their qualities. What greater contrast than the silvery hue of the Rosemary-leaved willow and the delicate green of other species? How different both the summer and autumnal hue of foliage of the Norway and the scarlet maple; or that of the English and American scarlet oaks. The former, verdant even after heavy frosts;

the latter, one glow of scarlet ere they have nipped the tenderest plant: one with its small, rondishlobed, the other with its large, sharply-toothed leaves. How different the American beech, one of our grandest trees, from the English cut-leaved, or the English maple. And even in the well known elm, how much is there of variety in the purple leaved, crisp-leaved, broad-leaved, twiggy-branched, Scotch, and other kinds.

But leaving out the variety of our more familiar trees, how few know the beauty, or at least avail themselves of it in their gardens and grounds, of those more rare, though many of them indigenous and abundant in our woods and forests: these are the magnolias—*azuminata*, *tripetala*, *auriculata*, and *cordata*; superb, both in foliage and flowers; the gems of deciduous trees. The liquidamber, with scarlet, purple, and gold-dyed starry foliage: the hornbeam, covered with its hop-like catkins; the Tupelo tree (*Nyssa*) one single specimen of which—for it rarely grows in groups—lights up with its fiery foliage the sombre hue of some swampy woodland. How few recognize in the scarlet and yellow flowered horse-chestnuts, any relation between them and the common white. How pleasing the contrast of the *Carragana arborescens*, with its yellow, and the Judas tree, with its rosy-colored pear-shaped blossoms. The *Cornus florida* suggests the idea of a huge tree rose so much does its large snow-white bracts resemble the single white or Cherokee rose of the South; and of the hawthorns (*Crataegus*) a group of small trees, natives of both continents, cultivated in every English garden—its beauties sang by the poets—how few of the 75 kinds are even known by name. Yet they are very different from each other, both in blossom and fruit, as well as in foliage and wood. Thirty out of forty kinds imported more than twenty years ago, form a collection of this attractive tree whose beauty and variety have been a constant source of pleasure and delight. In winter their thorny spray: in spring their varied blossoms: in summer their dense foliage, and in autumn their many colored berries—some scarlet, some green, some yellow, some black, either large, medium sized, or very small—all contribute to render this group of the highest interest and value. "Where, indeed," asks the late Mr. Loudon "would the planter find a genus which would afford him so many resources as that of *Crataegus*?"

But these are not all. We have yet that