



FIG. 1423.—PERSIAN OR ENGLISH WALNUT TREE (*J. REGIA*).

of St. Barnabas (11th of June) had been observed. At Welwyn in Herefordshire a walnut tree once stood whose branches covered an area of 2,000 square yards (more than 2.5 of an acre). Though thus appearing in English Folklore and flourishing on English soil, the term Welsh nut or foreign nut (A. S. Wealch; foreign) corrupted into the form of the word walnut, clearly shows that this tree is not a native of England. It is mentioned by 16th century writers, however, and was probably introduced at a much earlier date by the Romans. £600 (nearly \$3,000) was the price for which a walnut tree was once sold to be used for gunstocks, at the time of the war with Napoleon. A single plank of walnut wood was large enough to serve as a table for a banquet given by the Emperor Frederick III. Now, however, it is cultivated solely for its nuts in Europe. Spain and the South of France boast walnut trees said to be over 300 years old which bear from 15 to 18 bushels of

nuts each, and in the Crimea there is a tree held to be more than 1,000 years old, which yields on the average 80,000 nuts a year, and has even produced 100,000 nuts in one season. Walnut trees line the roads in Germany and Northern Italy sheltering the wayfarer and gratifying his eye and palate. Near Frankfort in the former country, in days gone by, no young farmer was allowed to marry till he had shown his desire to promote the general welfare by planting some of these trees. The old Romans whose rural tastes restored what their armies destroyed, were the distributors of the walnuts through Europe. Highly did they prize the walnut's wood and the nuts they imagined would cure hydrophobia. At marriage feasts the bridegroom, to show he had done with boyish sports, would scatter walnuts among the children. To this refer the lines :

"Now bar the door the bridegroom sets  
The eager boys, to gather nuts."

In Roman times walnut trees grew in