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THE THORN TREE.

**M**ARK the faire blooming of the  
Hawthorne tree,  
Which, finely cloathed in a robe  
of white,  
Fills full the wanton eye  
with May's delight.  
—CHAUCER: *Court of Love*.

MANY of our country roadsides are ornamented in the month of October with a very beautiful species of native Hawthorn, viz. :—*Crataegus Coccinea*, or Scarlet Fruited Thorn. Its loads of beautiful bright red ovoid haws or fruit, relieved by the dense mass of dark green foliage, certainly present a most attractive appearance. What could be more suitable as a decorative shrub for the lawn at this season of the year?

We have also in Canada the *C. tomentosa*, or Black Thorn, and the *C. crusgalli*, or Cockspur Thorn; and all are full of beauty, with their mass of

white flowers in the month of May. The English Hawthorn, referred to in Chaucer's lines above, and known to botanists as *C. oxycantha*, is well known as the favorite hedge plant in England. It is so associated with the floral games of May that it is known to some as the Maybush, and reminds us of the merry May-pole, with its top decked with garlands of the flowers from this tree, beneath which the happy party crowned their Queen of May. The Poet-Laureate speaks of this custom in his popular poem, the May Queen, thus:—

Last May we made a crown of flowers; we had  
a merry day;

Beneath the Hawthorn on the green they made  
me Queen of May;

And we danced about the May-pole, and in the  
hazel copse,

Till Charles Wain came out above the tall white  
chimney-tops.