

There is, as I have before observed, in plants as well as animals, a difference of sex, and the flowers are the pudenda or organs of generation in each plant. The male parts of the flower are the stamina, which bear the apices; and these, as testicles, contain the prolific powder or sperm of the plant. The female parts are the style, which serves as a vagina to receive and convey the spermatric farina of the apices to the seed case, which is the matrix or womb; by which means the embryo seeds are impregnated with the prolific power of producing a future plant.

Flowers are therefore some male, some female, and others hermaphrodite. The male flowers have the stamina and apices, but bear no fruit, and are therefore called staminate flowers. The female flower bears the style or pistil, which is succeeded by the fruit. These male and female flowers grow at some distance from each other on many plants, as cucumber, melon, gourd, Turkey wheat, turnsol, walnut, oak, beech, &c. Hermaphrodite flowers contain both male and female parts, and are by far the greatest tribe, as tulips, lillies, daffodil, althæa, rosemary, sage, thyme, &c.

There is a large distribution of flowers into monopetalous, dipetalous, tripetalous, tetrapetalous, &c., according as they consist of one, two, three, four, &c., petala or leaves; but this is not worth any further regard here.

The fruit is that part of a plant which succeeds the flower, and is designed to contain, preserve, nourish, and defend the seed. Hence, in the texture of this part, the more coarse and less concocted parts of the nutritious juices are filtered, and sent more pure, elaborate, and spirituous to the seed for the support and growth of the tender delicate embryo, or plantule therein contained.

The composition of the fruit appears to be in general the same as that of the other parts of the tree. Thus (1) the cuticle and skin of the fruit is only a production of the skin or outer bark of the tree. (2) The pareuchyma, or pulp of fruit, is only an expansion of the blea or inner rind of the tree, swollen and turgid with juices. (3) The branchery or ramification are only a continuation of the woody fibres of the branch on which it grows.