

in England, but a popular belief was entertained that it occasioned a disease known as rust in wheat growing in its vicinity, and it was consequently entirely removed. It is now known that this was no mere superstition, but modern scientific investigation has proved that the berberry rust and wheat rust are the alternate generations of one species. That *Puccinia graminis* and *Oidium berberis* are specifically identical, thus confirming the opinion held by farmers, but rejected as superstitious by most naturalists, except Sir Joseph Banks. The fruit has a pleasant acid, and is largely used in Europe for preserves and jellies. A celebrated conserve is made from a stoneless variety grown at Rouen, France.

Of the berberry proper there are four kinds, Common Red, Large Red, Purple, White. The stoneless is sometimes considered to be a distinct variety, and is propagated by layers, the others are usually raised from off sets or seeds, the latter method being usually practiced where large quantities are required, as for hedges, &c.

The berberry is an exceedingly hardy plant, withstanding the rigorous climate of Ottawa, which makes not the slightest impression on the smallest twig. In making hedges the plant need not be guarded from cattle, as they do not appear to relish it as an article of diet. As an adjunct to a board fence for the exclusion of boys from the fruit garden and the orchard, its thorny stems would be of great service. In the State of New Hampshire, where it has been extensively tried, it is considered the best hedge plant in America. The berberry grows best on a moist soil, but will do very well on a light sand, though it is not perhaps so vigorous there. The best way to prepare a hedge is to sow the seeds in a nursery, and afterwards plant out where required.

The berberry is a highly ornamental plant, both in flower and fruit. In early summer the graceful weeping branches are covered with the golden bloom, and in the autumn the shrub is ornamented with clusters of coral-like berries on long racemes, which remain attached to the boughs until the end of winter if not gathered. At the approach of frost the leaves change to an orange scarlet color, which greatly enhances the appearance of this beautiful plant. Besides being hardy, it is a very quick grower, is long lived, easily transplanted, and will stand cutting well.

(Concluded in next number.)