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KENTISH CHERRIES.



THE classification of cherries is very unsettled, and unsatisfactory, being founded too much upon form and color. The common American grouping is into I, Hearts and Bigarreaus, fruit heart-shaped, and II, Dukes and Morellos, fruit round, and III, Native Dwarf. But surely the Hearts and the Bigarreaus are sufficiently distinct for separate grouping, if only by reason of the difference in texture of the flesh, as for example the Tartarian (Heart) and Yellowish Spanish (Bigarreau). Again why class together the Dukes and the Morellos which are so totally distinct both in habit of trees and in fruit, as for example compare the May Duke, with its upright habit and fastigiate foliage, and very mildly acid fruit, with the English Morello, the fruit of which stains and is totally distinct in habit of tree and in flavor of fruit.

Then why should the Morello and the Kentish varieties be put together, when the fruit is so distinct in color, flavor

and texture. The former is well represented by the English Morello, and the latter by the Early Richmond and the Montmorency. It is of these two varieties we desire to speak more particularly at this time.

The EARLY RICHMOND is an American name taken no doubt from Richmond, Virginia, where it has been planted in early years, just as the Old English Williams Pear took on the name Bartlett, at Boston, from the first introducer. It is also called the *Virginian May*, although with us it does not color before the middle of June. It was not easy for a time to trace this variety to its identity in England and France, but from all we can learn it is the *Kentish Pie cherry* of England and the *Hative* (Early cherry) of France (Le Roy) The cherry appears to be of French origin, and George Lindley supposed that it had been brought into England from Flanders in the reign of Henry VIII.

The tree, like all the Kentish and Morello, is a slow grower and slender