

fruit will long remain good without decay." This melon is egg-shaped, the stalk end being the largest; it is of a dark green colour at first, but as the fruit advances in growth, the stripes become very apparent, of a sombre green, dividing the surface into marked distinct portions, but without any furrowing; this smoothness is ultimately covered with an ash-grey-coloured net work. When nearly ripe, small greenish yellow spots are observable among the interstices of the netting, and a clear yellow circle surrounds the insertion of the foot-stalk. The state of perfect ripeness is not marked by any determinate change of colour: the general tint is a sea-green, covered more or less with the pale grey network. The green-stripes in some instances remain unchanged: at other times they are nearly obliterated. "The maturity of the fruit," says Mr. Knight, "will be ascertained by little globules, apparently of water, but really composed of the juice of the fruit, appearing at the junction of the fruit and its stalk: if such bubbles appear and are sweet to the taste, the fruit should be instantly cut. The bubbles have sometimes appeared on the stalk about 1½ inches from its insertion into the fruit. The yellow circle around this part, its softness, and a crack of separation at the juncture of the stalk and melon indicate maturity. It has no distinctive odour unless accident cause disease, or the leaves be broken so as to destroy their vital energy. In such case, the fruit will be arrested in its growth, it will become yellow and then emit the odour of a melon. Injury of the leaves materially injures the fruit. The plant in its habit of growth is one of the finest and most interesting objects imaginable. The stem if led perpendicularly to the height of 3 feet will comprise about ten clear joints: from each joint at its angle a noble leaf nearly a foot in diameter is produced. It is supported by a petiole or foot-stalk about 12 inches in length, the leaf is a vivid green, and its surface rough with short bristly

hairs; it is heart-shaped and very broad near the base; lateral shoots are sent forth from the axils of the leaf, but these should be removed to a certain height; the flowers both male and female are small and of a pale yellow colour, and rather few in number; the male flowers appear first, which insures the safety and perfection of the fruit; the melons formed above the tenth joint are generally found to set with greater certainty and to grow larger than those which form in the earlier stage of the plant near its root." "The Housaince melon," says Mr. Knight, "is of very easy culture, the plant very productive of fruit but long in ripening, but when ripe it remains long in perfection." "The fruit never decays, bursts or becomes flavourless." Mr. Knight observes that he has found the *natural habit* of the plant to prove *permanent*, which he considers an important feature in its character.— "This melon appears to be the peculiar favourite of Mr. Knight, the venerated President of the London Horticultural Society." Mr. Knight cultivated this melon with great success in his hot house, by planting a single melon seed in a pot, training it upon a trellis, placed about 14 inches distant from the glass, and permitting each plant to bear only one melon. They were however disposed to burst; an accident which he effectually prevented by *raising the points of the fruit higher than the stems*; which done, not one failed to ripen in a perfect state.

The Persian varieties of melon differ from those commonly cultivated in Europe; they are destitute of the hard thick rind, and they abound in tender flesh filled with a rich, copious, sweet, delicious and cool juice. They require a high temperature, a dry atmosphere, but an extremely humid soil. But care must be taken that they are not supplied with an over abundant humidity, which causes spotting and injury before the fruit is ripe. Horticulturists differ in their descriptions respecting the external and in-