



The Loan Pearmain.

VI.

THE LOAN PEARMAIN.

The Loan Pearmain is not, I believe, found in any Catalogue of Apples of the 17th century; and if it existed even in the latter part of that period, it was probably as a single seedling tree; for the state of the variety does not now indicate any marks of old age, and orchards of it might still be raised; though they would probably be of short duration. As a Cider Apple the Loan Pearmain possesses much merit, and contains a considerable portion of saccharine matter combined with a good deal of astringency; but the trees are very subject to become much encumbered with a multiplicity of slender shoots, and are by no means good bearers. The specific gravity of the expressed juice is about 1072.

WORLIDGE, who wrote in 1678 has called the Marygold Apple "Joanes Pearmain," and the anonymous author of the "*Complete Planter and Cyderist*," printed in 1685, has called the same Apple "Lones Pearmain," whence the name of the Loan Pearmain, is, not improbably, derived. The Loans Pearmain, of the nurseries about London, is a different variety.



The Grange Apple.

VII.

THE GRANGE APPLE.

The Grange Apple is of modern date, having sprung from seed in my nursery in the year 1792. It is the offspring of the Orange Pippin, of which a delineation is given in the succeeding plate, and the produce of a blossom which was deprived of its stamina, and subsequently fertilized by the pollen of the Golden Pippin. It is an established maxim, amongst breeders of improved animals, that the males and females, from which they propagate, must not be nearly related to each other ; and however widely plants and animals differ from each other, very extensive experience has satisfied me that the same maxim is equally applicable to both.

The Grange Apple inherits much of the character of its male parent, both in external appearance and flavour, and will probably prove an excellent Apple for the Press, the specific gravity of its juice, expressed from a very perfect sample of the fruit, having been 1079.* The trees of this variety grow very freely in favourable soils, and the fruit, in moderately warm situations and seasons, ripens about the middle of October : it obtained the premium annually given by the Agricultural Society of Herefordshire for the best Cider Apple, recently obtained from seed, in the year 1802.

* The specific gravity of the juice of the Golden Pippin, in the same soil and season, was 1078.



The Orange Pippin.

VIII.

THE ORANGE PIPPIN.

The Orange Pippin is cultivated in different parts of the County of Hereford under different names, and has been not unfrequently confounded with the Loan Pearmain, which it somewhat resembles in form and colour; but it is a larger and a much more sweet apple. The name does not seem perfectly appropriate, for the colour of the apple is very different from that of an orange: but when the crop of fruit is perfectly ripe, and seen at such a distance that the red and yellow colour are mingled and blended together, the effect on the eye may be conceived to be not very widely different from that which a similar crop of very ripe Seville Oranges would produce; and from this circumstance the Orange Pippin possibly derived its name. It is not apparently a very old variety; for young trees of it still grow freely and bear well: but I have seen trees of it, which were at least eighty years old: and therefore the variety can now scarcely deserve culture, though it is certainly an excellent cider apple, and its yellow pulp communicates a beautiful golden tinge to the juices of other varieties. The specific gravity of its juice is about 1074. I am ignorant of its native country, and of its history previously to the last thirty years.



The Downton Pippin.

IX.

THE DOWNTON PIPPIN.

The Downton Pippin sprang, like the Grange Apple, and in the same year, from a seed of the preceding variety, and from the pollen of the Golden Pippin. It a good deal resembles its male parent in form and colour, and still more nearly in flavour, and it is, I believe, entitled to the first place amongst new varieties, as a fruit for the dessert. The trees grow very freely, and are most exuberantly productive of fruit, the grafts inserted in one season usually affording blossoms in the succeeding spring. Linnæus was of opinion that the character of the male parent generally predominated in the exterior of the offspring, and both the Grange Apple and Downton Pippin might be adduced as examples in support of his hypothesis; which nevertheless I have had, in many other cases, ample reasons to reject. The Downton Pippin ripens in the end of October; but it may be preserved till March. The specific gravity of its juice, when expressed from a well ripened sample of the fruit, is about 1080. The original tree, with that of the Grange Apple, is growing at Wormsley Grange, in Herefordshire.

There is a degree of freshness in the bark, both of this and of the Grange Apple, that is not generally seen in older varieties; and the leaves are more green than is common when the fruit is ripe. The drawings are, however, perfectly accurate, and are portraits of branches selected by myself from young trees in my nursery.