

“pend the health and growth of his plants; and consequently the beauty of his plantations.”

In China, as in Europe, the usual times of planting are the autumn and the spring; some things answering best when planted in the first, and some in the last of these seasons. Their Gardeners avoid planting, whenever the grounds are so moist as to endanger the rotting of the roots; or when the frosts are so near as to pinch the plants, before they have recovered the shock of transplantation; or when the earth and air are too dry to afford nurture to them; or when the weather is so tempestuous as to shake or overturn them, whilst loose and unrooted in the ground.

They observe, that the perfection of trees for Ornamental Gardening, consists in their size; in the beauty and variety of their forms; in the colour and smoothness of their bark; in the quantity, shape, and rich verdure of their foliage; in its early appearance in the spring, and long duration in the autumn; in the quickness of their
growth;

growth; in their hardiness to endure the extremities of heat, cold, drought and moisture; in their making no litter, during the spring or summer, by the fall of the blossom; and in the strength of their branches, to resist, unhurt, the violence of tempests.

They say, that the perfection of shrubs consists not only in most of the above mentioned particulars, but also in the beauty, durability, or long succession of their blossom; and in their fair appearance before the bloom, and after it is gone.

“ We are sensible,” say they, “ that no plant is possessed of all good qualities; but choose such as have the fewest faults; and avoid all the exotics, that vegetate with difficulty in our climate; for though they may be rare, they cannot be beautiful, being always in a sickly state: have, if you please, hot-houses and cool-houses, for plants of every region, to satisfy the curiosity of botanists; but they are mere infirmaries: the plants which they contain, are valetudinarians, distressed

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