

CURTIS'S
BOTANICAL MAGAZINE,

COMPRISING THE

Plants of the Royal Gardens of Kew

AND

OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN;
WITH SUITABLE DESCRIPTIONS;

BY

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"Gems of the changing autumn, how beautiful ye are!
Shining from your glossy stems like many a golden star;
Peeping through the long grass, smiling on the down,
Lighting up the dusky bank, just where the sun goes down."

Campbell.

LONDON:

L. REEVE & CO., 5, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1868.

Mo. Bot. Garden,

1897.



PARROTIA PERSICA.

Persian Parrotia.

Nat. Ord. HAMAMELIDÆ.—PENTANDRIA DIGYNIA.

Gen. Char. Calyx campanulatus, basi ovario adhærens, lobis 5–7 coriaceis persistentibus. Petala 0. Stamina 5–7, perigyna, calycis lobis opposita, filamentis filiformibus; antheræ basifixæ, connectivo mucico v. mucronato. Ovarium semi-inferum, 2-loculare; styli 2, stigmatibus simplicibus; ovula in loculis solitaria. Capsula lignosa, semisupera, 2-valvis, valvis 2-partibilibus, endocarpio corneo soluto 2-valvi. Semina oblonga, testa atra nitida.—Arbores et frutices, Persiæ et Kashmiræ incolæ. Folia oblonga v. orbicularia, decidua, crenata. Stipulæ amplæ, deciduæ. Flores præcoces, conferti, subcapitati, bracteis amplis membranaceis involucrati, tomentosi.

PARROTIA *Persica*; foliis breviter petiolatis obovato-oblongis basi rotundatis obtusis ultra mediam grosse crenato-serratis, antheris linearibus mucronatis.

PARROTIA *Persica*. C. A. Meyer, *Index Cauc.* p. 47. Ledebour, *Fl. Ross.* v. 2. p. 377.

HAMAMELIS *Persica*. DC. *Prodr.* v. 4. p. 268.

The tree now figured for the first time is one of the rarest in cultivation. It is a native of the Trans-Caucasian provinces of Russia, and of Northern Persia. Two small trees of it exist in the Royal Gardens, which were received as pot-plants from St. Petersburg some twenty-five to thirty years ago; one of these is trained against a west wall, the other, which is nine feet high, stands in the open ground, and the latter flowered abundantly in March of the present year. The great beauty of the plant consists in the magnificent colouring of the foliage in late autumn, when the leaves usually turn of a brilliant orange and golden-yellow and scarlet, and hang upon the plant on the wall till late in winter; on the plant in the open ground they are shed much sooner. During the present year, however, this colouring has been very dull, a peculiarity shared by the Scarlet Oaks, American Maples, Liquidambar and Salisburias at Kew, all of which have

turned of a dull yellow or purple or brown, instead of their usual brilliant hues. The genus was named in honour of the Russian Professor Parrot, who made the first ascent of Mount Ararat in 1829. The wood of *Parrotia* is stated to be excessively hard and durable, whence the tree is called in Persian Temir-Agatsch, or "iron tree." There is but one other species of the genus, *P. Jacquemontiana*, Decne., a native of the Kashmir Himalaya.

DESCR. A small *tree*, ten to fifteen feet high, with spreading branches and very hard wood. *Leaves* alternate, on short downy petioles, three to four inches long, one and a half to two and a half inches broad, broadly ovate- or obovate-oblong, rounded at the base, coarsely and crenately toothed beyond the middle, more or less pubescent below when young with silky hairs, beautifully plaited (like beech-leaves) in veneration, brilliantly coloured in autumn. *Flowers* appearing before the leaves in lateral and terminal involucrate heads on the young branchlets; *bracts* oblong, deciduous, outer dark and scaly, inner membranous, greenish. *Flowers* small, conspicuous for their spreading stamens with scarlet anthers. *Calyx* of five to seven oblong lobes, with silky apices. *Corolla* none. *Filaments* half an inch long, five times as long as the calyx-lobes; anthers linear, apiculate. *Ovary* of two carpels, with long recurved styles, and several ovules in each cell.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1. Male flower. 2. Anther. 3. Ovary. 4. Ripe fruit (from dried specimen) :—*all magnified.*