

house. Cultivation blots out some of the original characters of nature, and checks the free development of the several parts of the exotic organization.

The physiognomy and arrangement of plants and their contrasted apposition must not be regarded as mere objects of natural science, or incitements toward its cultivation; for the attention devoted to the physiognomy of plants is likewise of the greatest importance with reference to the art of landscape gardening. I will not yield to the temptation here held out to me of entering more fully into this subject, merely limiting myself to a reference to the beginning of this section of the present work, where, as we found occasion to praise the more frequent manifestation of a profound sentiment of nature noticed among nations of Semitic, Indian, and Iranian descent, so also we find from history that the cultivation of parks originated in Central and Southern Asia. Semiramis caused gardens to be laid out at the foot of the Mountain Bagistanos, which have been described by Diodorus,* and whose fame induced Alexander, on his progress from Kelone to the horse pastures of Nysæa, to deviate from the direct road. The parks of the Persian kings were adorned with cypresses, whose obelisk-like forms resembled the flame of fire, and were, on that account, after the appearance of Zerdusht (Zoroaster) first planted by Gushtasp around the sacred precincts of the Temple of Fire. It is thus that the form of the tree itself has led to the myth of the origin of the cypress in Paradise.†

* Diodor., ii., 13. He, however, ascribes to the celebrated gardens of Semiramis a circumference of only twelve stadia. The district near the pass of Bagistanos is still called the "bow or circuit of the gardens"—Tauk-i-bostan (Droysen, *Gesch. Alexanders des Grossen*, 1833, s. 553).

† In the *Schahnameh* of Firdusi it is said, "a slender cypress, reared in Paradise, did Zerdusht plant before the gate of the temple of fire" (at Kishmeer in Khorassan). "He had written on this tall cypress that Gushtasp had adopted the genuine faith, of which the slender tree was a testimony, and thus did God diffuse righteousness. When many years had passed away, the tall cypress spread and became so large that the hunter's cord could not gird its circumference. When its top was surrounded by many branches, he encompassed it with a palace of pure gold and caused it to be published abroad, Where is there on the earth a cypress like that of Kishmeer? From Paradise God sent it me, and said, Bow thyself from thence to Paradise." When the Calif Motewekkil caused the cypresses, sacred to the Magians, to be cut down, the age ascribed to this one was said to be 1450 years. See Vuller's *Fragmente über die Religion des Zoroaster*, 1831, s. 71 und 114; and Ritter, *Erdkunde*, th. vi., i., s. 242. The original native place of the cypress (in Arabic *arar*, wood, in Persian *serw kôhi*) appears to be the mountains of Busih, west of Herat (*Géographie d'Édrisi*, trad. par Jaubert, 1836, t. i., p. 464).