

others, it was yet found to offer many objects of interest, and we believe of novelty, particularly in the waters of this bay.

In Rio, the vegetation seems to fix the attention above all other things, especially of those situated as we were in the harbour, having it continually before one's eyes; and I can well understand the deprivation Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander must have experienced in their visit. Our naturalists remarked that although the productions are still American in character, the same families prevailing, often the same genera, yet they were entirely distinct in species from those of other parts of the continent. As an example the *Furcraea* takes the place of the Mexican Agaves. The *Furcraea* is a peculiar plant, and attracts attention by its bayonet-shaped leaves, branching up in every direction; some of these are ten or twelve feet in height and ten inches in diameter. This plant, with the well-known *Cecropia*, with its candelabra branches, and the prevailing yellow blossoms of the trees, give a peculiar and lively character to the landscape and woods, when compared with the dull sombre hue of our own forests.

Here, as in all tropical climates, the truth of the remark made by a botanist, "that every thing grows into shrubs and trees," is obvious. Herbaceous plants are rare, and annuals may be said to be almost wanting. The fruit trees were generally seen bearing fruit and flowers at the same time. This was the case, as observed by one of our party, even in the cultivated apple on the Tejuca Mountains.

The vegetation near the coast differs considerably from that of the inland country. Plants are more dense and succulent, species and tribes have little of a local nature; yet particular kinds of palms and bamboos are found in separate groups on the top of the Organ Mountains, but this is only a slight exception to the general rule, which nature seems to have adopted in the distribution of plants over the country. This character strikes the observer forcibly in the *Cecropias*, *Cæsalpinia brasiliensis*, and several *Melastomas*, which are rarely seen in pairs.

The Botanic Garden is in a flat situation, backed by a high ridge of mountainous land. In front, is a lake of brackish water, which forms a considerable bay, and communicates with the sea by a narrow inlet. The entrance to the garden has a mean appearance, and does not correspond with the broad promenades within, which are planted with trees on each side. The whole is laid out in the old Dutch style; seats, arbours, and houses are cut out of *Arbor vitæ* (*Thuja orientalis*). Terrestrial Orchideæ are cultivated in earthen vases placed in rows in the herbaceous ground, which appeared to have been once planted after the Jussieuan, or natural system, but is now some-