

forests in our Atlantic States. According to the accounts of intelligent residents, it is easily traversed in any direction. The accounts of difficulties have probably arisen from the second growth on spots that have once been cleared, where the bamboos are intertwined so as to render the woods almost impassable, and this has no doubt been taken for the primeval forest.

The nature of the Brazilian forest will account for so little being known of its botany. The trees are in fact inaccessible, the trunks being from seventy to one hundred feet high, before the branches appear, so that the latter can only be got at by felling. The view of the forest is truly remarkable. Trees of immense growth intermingled with others of less size, presenting to the eye the most singular and fantastic forms imaginable. The roots of climbing plants, dangling between their straight trunks, resembled the tackling of a ship.

A little incident that occurred to these gentlemen will show the difficulties to be encountered in obtaining specimens. They had observed for a few days a beautiful yellow flowering tree, that was very conspicuous in the forest. Believing that it could be easily come at, they made the attempt to reach it, but without success, finding it, instead of being low, a high and inaccessible tree. They then directed their steps to others, but were disappointed again. Determined not to be foiled in their pursuit, they again went off in search of others in sight; these, to their surprise, were on the opposite side of a river. Nothing daunted, Mr. Brackenridge crossed it, though deep, and endeavoured to scale the tree. What had appeared near the ground, now proved a tree of some sixty feet in height, with a smooth and slippery bark; and he returned to his companion empty-handed. Dr. Pickering next made the attempt. After crossing the stream with difficulty, he reached the desired object, and endeavoured to climb, but after reaching some forty feet, was obliged to acknowledge himself vanquished. They continued their return, and when near Padre Luiz's house, they found a small tree of the same kind they had been searching for, which proved to be a species of *Cæsalpinia*.

At Padre Luiz's they again passed the night, and the next day endeavours were made to reach one of the pointed peaks of the Organ Mountains. In this Dr. Pickering succeeded, though it did not prove the highest. On their way they found many interesting plants; among them the Epiphytic Orchideæ, slender *Cecropias*, rising to the height of one hundred feet without a limb, arborescent fern trees forty feet in height, and numerous parasitical plants hanging from the various trees in great profusion; *Bromelias*, *Bignonias*, &c. On reaching the top, he found trees stunted and gnarled of about thirty feet in height.