

gray gum, flooded gum, iron bark, and stringy bark. The leaves of these gum trees have a powerful aromatic flavour, and a taste approaching to camphor. They are used in the colony for a variety of purposes, according to their quality. Thus, the blue gum, (*Eucalyptus piperita*,) is employed for ship-building; the iron gum, (*Eucalyptus resinifera*,) for fencing; and the gray gum and black-butted gum, for boards and plank.

The Norfolk Island pine, (*Araucaria excelsa*,) is used for cabinet-work; the swamp oak, (*Casuarina torulosa*,) for shingles and cabinet-work, as is the cedar (*Cedrela australis*,) which grows to a very large size; the turpentine-wood, (*Tristania arabicans*,) for boat building; the pear tree, (*Xylomelum pyriforme*,) the apple, (*Angophora lanceolata*,) the mountain-ash, sallow, sassafras, and several kinds of wood which they called "Curagong," were also observed in use, but the trees were not seen.

The grass tree (*Xanthorrhœa hastilis*) did not equal our expectations, which were probably too highly raised by the descriptions of those who had gone before us; yet when in flower it must be a conspicuous object, and in all stages of growth suits well for the foreground of a picture.

Among the most singular of the productions of Australia are the wooden pears, as they are called. These have a close external resemblance to the fruit whose name they bear, but are ligneous within. Another of the fruits is a cherry, whose stone is external, and would be similar to our fruit of that name were the kernel in its proper place. The pit adheres firmly to the pulp, which is of the size of a pistol-bullet, but the fruit shrinks when ripe to that of a buck-shot. The pear grows on a low shrub, the cherry on a large bush.

I have before remarked how different the "forest," so called in New South Wales, is from what is understood by the term elsewhere. The want of close growth is not the only remarkable appearance, but the absence of all decayed foliage is also extraordinary. The ground is clear of any fallen leaves, and every thing betokens that perennial verdure is here the order of things. These two features combined, give the forests of Australia the air of a neatly-kept park. Annual plants, (if so they can be called,) abound in the forest, requiring, it is said, more than a single year to bring their seeds to maturity. There were instances we were told of crops of grain remaining three years in the ground. A few plants found in other parts of the world, are, it is well known, only brought into existence after a lapse of years, and others give repeated crops during the same year. That these types, so rare in other countries, should be abundant in Australia, is not remark-